



## General Services Department

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TO: Members of the Bastrop County Commissioners Court  
FROM: Shawn Harris  
DATE: July 10, 2025  
RE: Bastrop County Parks Master Plan 2021 - 2031

The draft Parks and Open Space Master Plan was developed with technical assistance from the National Park Service (NPS) who have provided input into the following sections of the document:

- Other County Park Systems – p40
- Parks and Open Space Classifications and Standards – p20
- Green Infrastructure – p51

The NPS also assisted in the community engagement component of the plan, which is outlined on pages 18-20 of the document.

The local AgriLife Extension Office (which oversees the Master Gardeners and Master Naturalists) and Keep Bastrop County Beautiful also participated in the development of this plan.

Other key components of the plan include:

- Prioritized project list for each County Park – p48
- Implementation strategy and timeline – p56
- Bastrop County Parks Acceptance Policy Recommendations – p58

After the January 11, 2021 Commissioners Court discussion the draft plan was published online for public comment for approximately 30 days. The Bastrop County Parks Advisory Committee at its regular meeting April 13, 2021 reviewed the comments received and has recommended Commissioners Court final review and formal approval of The Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2021 - 2031.

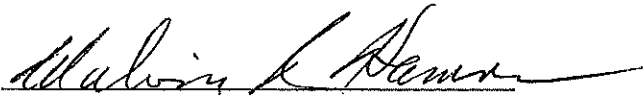
### Attachments/ Additional Information

- Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan
- Appendix A – Map Book
- Appendix B – Complete Parks Indicators
- Appendix C – Community Outreach details
- Appendix D – Park Inventory
- Appendix E – Scoring Spreadsheet
- A dedicated Master Plan website was created as part of the community engagement process which can be found at the following link - (<https://www.co.bastrop.tx.us/page/par.openspace>)

The Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2021-2031 was considered and approved by the Bastrop County Commissioners Court on this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2021.




Paul Pape, County Judge



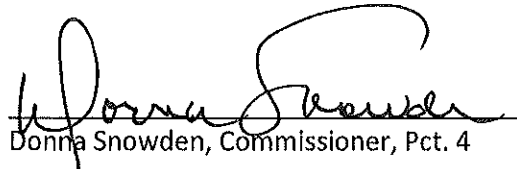
Mel Hamner, Commissioner, Pct. 1



Clara Beckett, Commissioner, Pct. 2



Mark Meuth, Commissioner, Pct. 3



Donna Snowden, Commissioner, Pct. 4

ATTEST:



Rose Pietsch, County Clerk



# **Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan**

**2021-2031**

**April 2021**



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## **Acknowledgements**

This plan has been developed by Bastrop County in partnership with the following organizations:



**National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance Program**



**Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Bastrop County Office**



**Keep Bastrop County Beautiful**



**The Trust for Public Land**

### **Bastrop County Parks Advisory Committee**

Dan Pacatte – Chair  
Terry Moore – Vice Chair  
Carol Brown – Bastrop County Nature Park Representative  
Chris Shaw – Cedar Creek Park Representative  
Angel Jimenez – Stony Point Park Representative  
Margaret Robinson – General Member  
Susan Taylor – General Member  
Mel Hamner – County Commissioner, Precinct 1  
Mark Meuth – County Commissioner, Precinct 3

### **Bastrop County Commissioners Court**

Paul Pape – County Judge  
Mel Hamner – Precinct 1  
Clara Beckett – Precinct 2  
Mark Meuth – Precinct 3  
Donna Snowden – Precinct 4

### **Bastrop County Contact Details**

Questions regarding this plan should be directed to  
[BastropCountyParks@co.bastrop.tx.us](mailto:BastropCountyParks@co.bastrop.tx.us)

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# 1. Introduction and Community Context

Located in the southwestern part of the “Texas Triangle”, Bastrop County covers 896 miles and is situated 25 miles east of Austin, 130 miles west of Houston, and 200 miles south of Dallas. The area is notable for the Lost Pines forest, a geographically isolated section of loblolly pines which covers the central- eastern part of the County, and the Colorado River, which runs westwards from the Travis County line in the west to Fayette County southeast of Smithville.

## History of Bastrop County

Bastrop County was established in 1836, when Bastrop (then Mina) was one of the original 23 counties created after Texan Independence, with a population of 592. The name change from Mina to Bastrop County occurred one year later, and over the next few years the former Mina municipality was divided up into smaller pieces, one being the present day Bastrop County, whose present day borders were not delineated until 1887.

Since then, Bastrop County has grown significantly from its original 592 residents. Transportation played a key part in this – whereas transportation had originally been provided by the small boats and El Camino Real (also known as Old San Antonio Road), the 19th century brought new transportation developments such as the Gotier Trace arterial in 1830 between Mina and San Filipe de Austin, steamboats and ferries along the Colorado River in the middle part of the 19th century, and the construction of the first bridge across the Colorado at Bastrop in 1891. However, it was the construction of the railroads (the first being the Houston and Texas Central Railroad in 1862) which brought about substantial growth to many wider parts of the County, including the settlements of Paige, Smithville, McDade, Red Rock and Elgin. With the railroads came industry, such as coal mining, pottery in McDade, and cotton processing and brick production in Elgin. The 20<sup>th</sup> century brought yet more change to the county when the Camp Swift military base was established between Bastrop and Elgin during the Second World War.

Today, Bastrop County growth is focused not along railroads but along arterial state roads which connect into the City of Austin. The population of the Austin-Round Rock MSA has increased by almost 30% since 2010 and many residents have relocated from the City of Austin to neighboring counties such as Bastrop due to rising housing costs in the urban core.



## Physical Characteristics of Bastrop County

Although the County is experiencing growing development, the majority of the land remains rural and agricultural, with forest and pasture/hay being the most frequently found land cover types in the unincorporated part of the County (see Figure 1 – Land Cover).

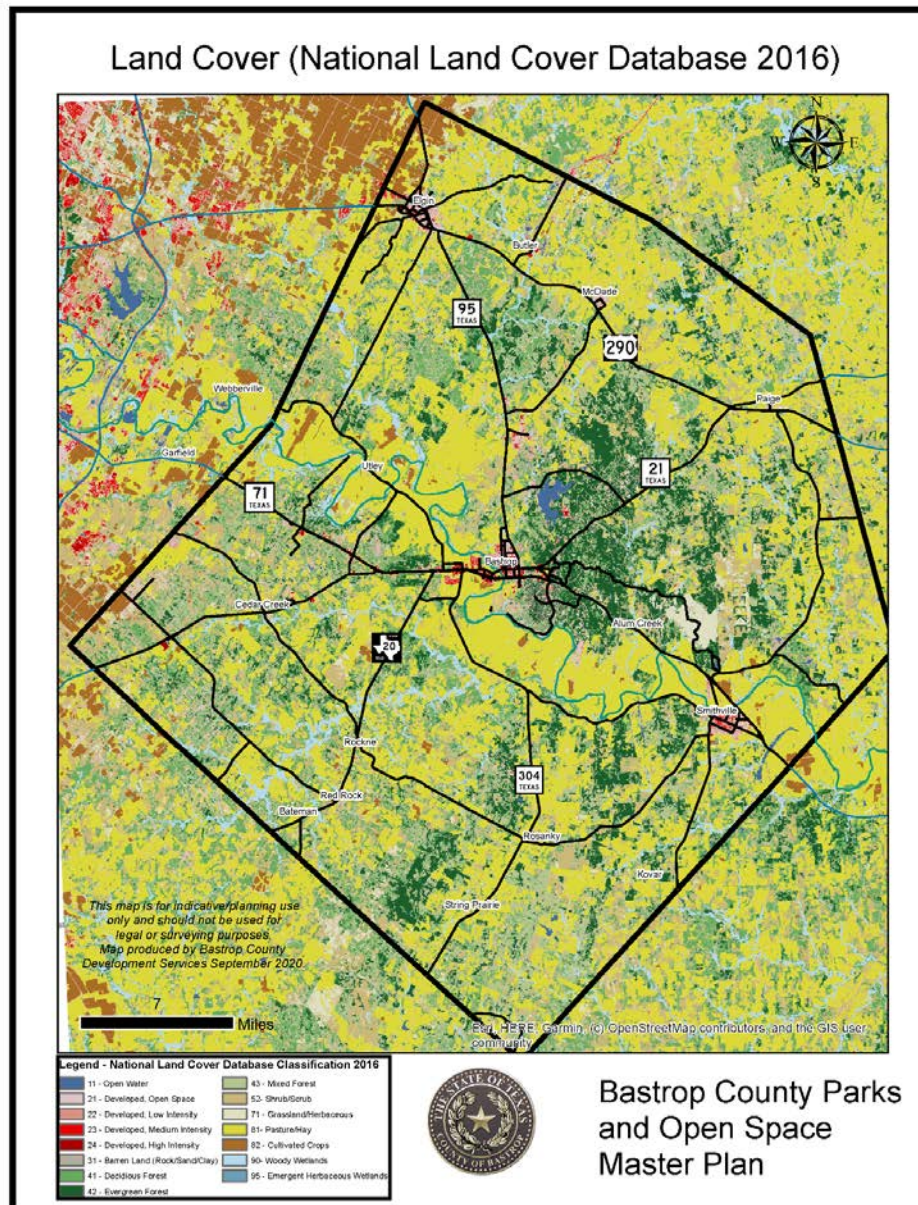


Figure 1

Approximately 13.7 % (78,560 acres) of Bastrop County land is located within the FEMA 100 year floodplain, with 0.02 % (12,371 acres) of the county in the “floodway”. In addition, several Hydrologic

and Hydraulic (H&H) studies undertaken by the County over the last several years have identified additional flood prone areas which are not within the FEMA floodplain. Bastrop County has suffered a number of Federally Declared disasters due to flooding, including Hurricane Harvey in 2017. The eastern part of the county has also experienced challenges in the form of wildfires, including the 2011 Bastrop County Complex Fire which caused the destruction of approximately 1,600 homes throughout 34,000 acres of land and over \$300 million in insured property damage. The “burn scar” which remained also left the land more susceptible to flooding and erosion.

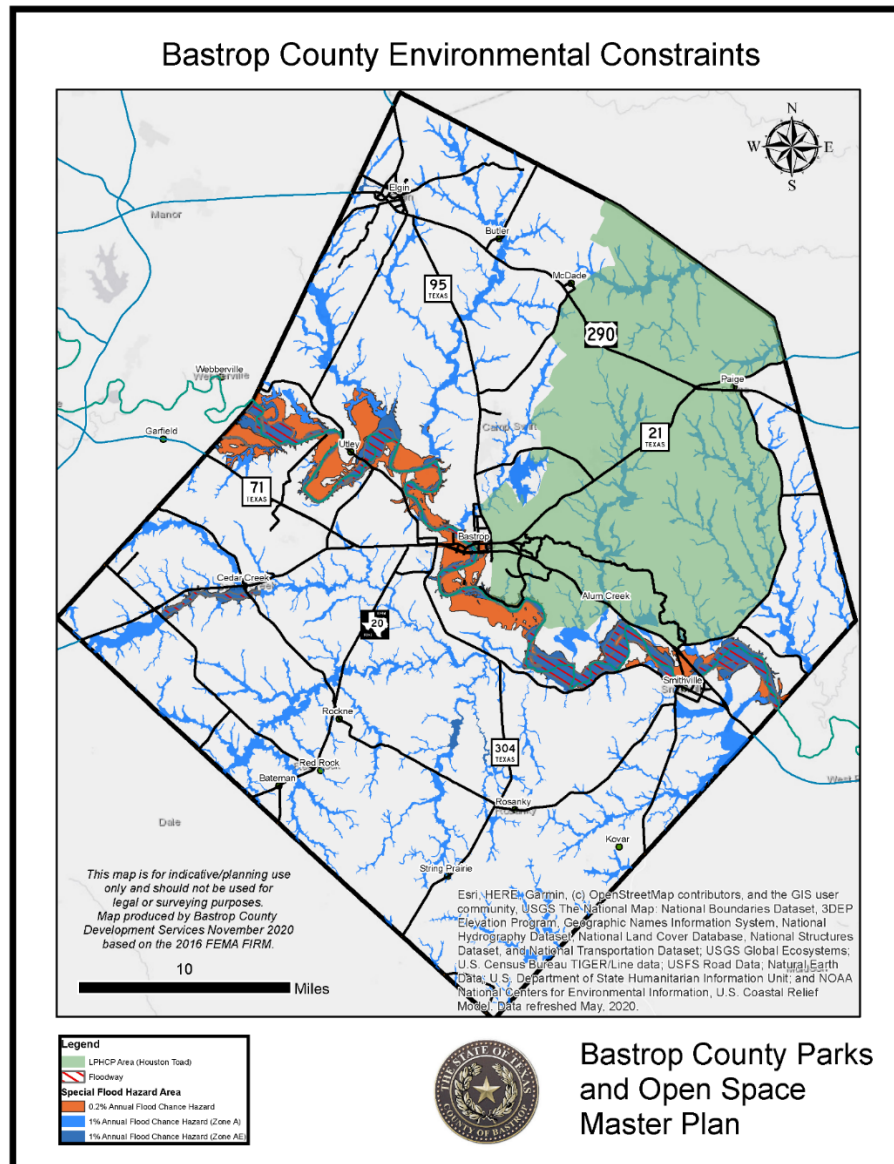


Figure 2

The eastern side of the county is also home to the Houston Toad which was listed as a federally endangered species in October, 1970 under the Endangered Species Act. The toad can be found in the “Lost Pines” of Bastrop County, a portion of loblolly pines separate from the pine forests of East Texas

(over 100 miles away). Approximately 84,000 acres of the county is designated as “Critical Habitat” for the Houston Toad and 124,000 acres of the County (or 28% of the total landmass) falls within the Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan Area where additional development permitting requirement have been implemented in order to ensure the integrity of the toad habitat.

## Bastrop County Population Growth and Distribution

Bastrop County is part of the Austin-Round Rock- Georgetown Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) which was the third fastest growing metropolitan area in the United States between 2010 and 2019<sup>1</sup>. In 2019, the County was estimated to have a population of **88,723** in 2019, a 19.6 % increase from the 2010 Census figure of 74,171, and a 53.7% increase from the 2000 Census figure of 57,733.

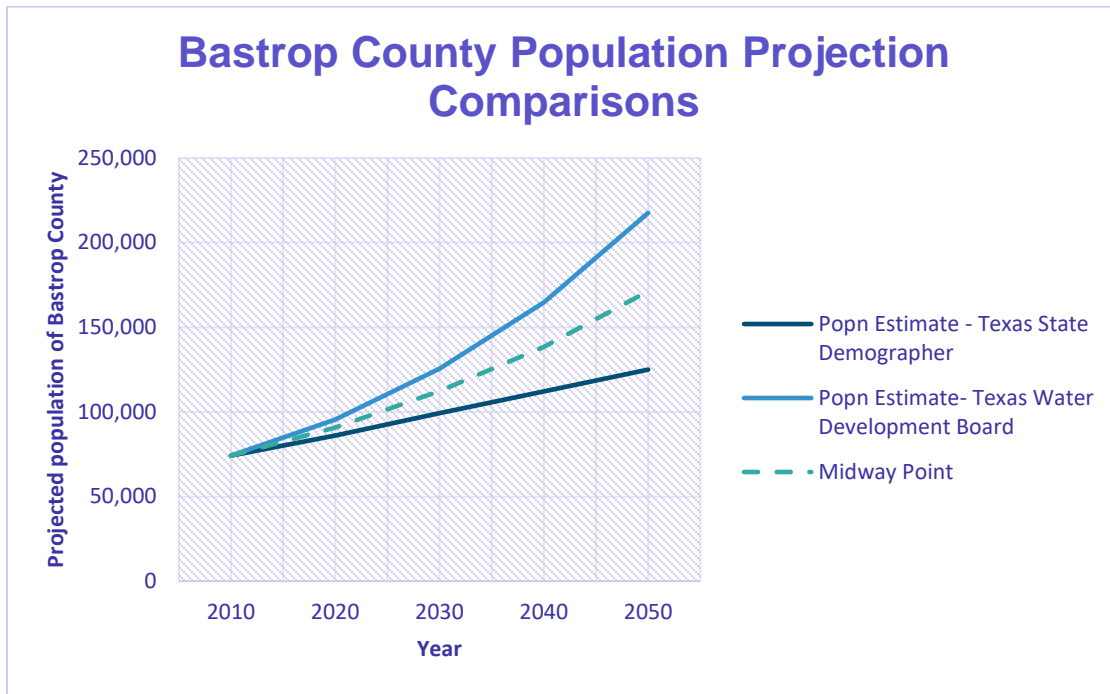


Figure 3 – Population Projections

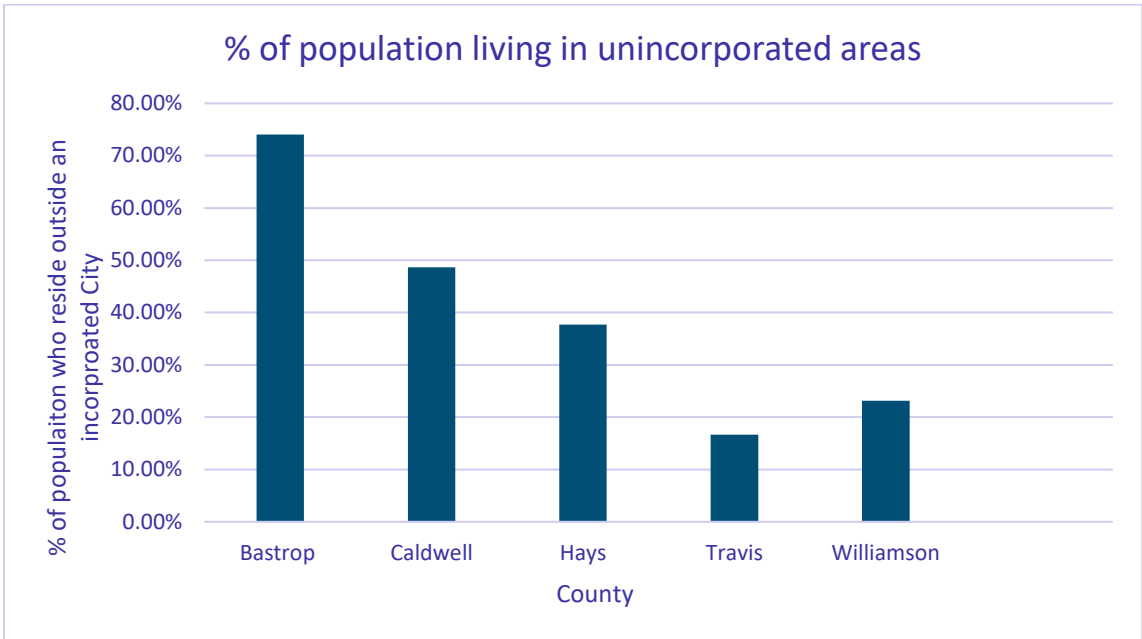
Bastrop County’s population is projected to continue to increase over the plan period, and there have been a number of different population projections from various sources on the extent of this growth. The most conservative of these is the Texas Office of the State Demographer, which estimates that the Bastrop County population will increase to **99,211** in 2030. The Texas Water Development Board

<sup>1</sup> Based on percentage growth as opposed to numeric growth. US Census Bureau Annual Population Estimates, <https://www.census.gov/newsroom/press-releases/2020/pop-estimates-county-metro.html>

(TWDB) anticipates more rapid growth for the County, estimating that there will be **143,212** Bastrop County residents by 2030.

**Population Distribution**

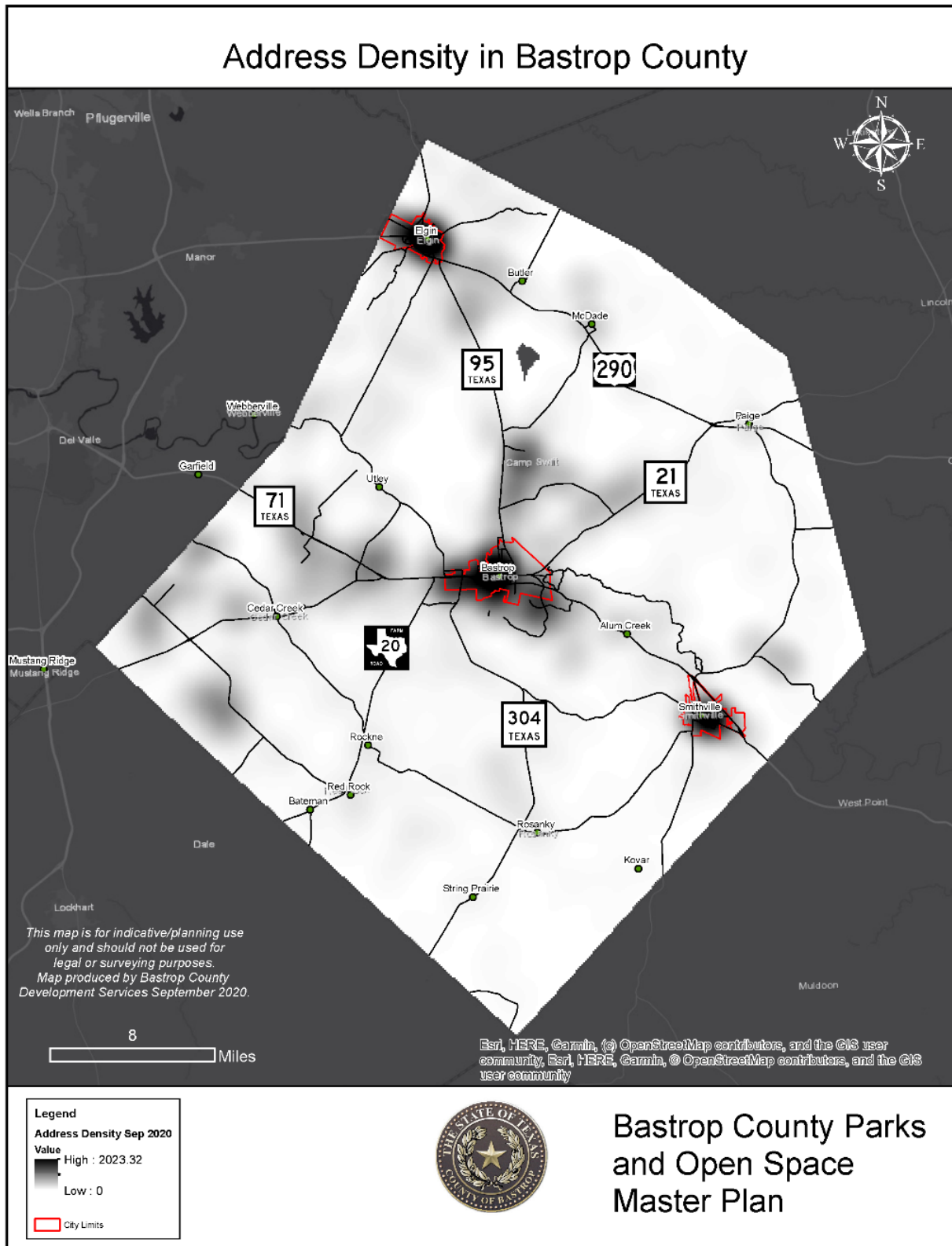
The County covers 896 square miles, of which approximately 98% is outside the limits of an incorporated city. Per Census estimates, approximately 74% of Bastrop County residents live in the “unincorporated area” (outside City limits) compared to only 17% of Travis County residents and 49% of Caldwell County residents.



*Figure 4 - Incorporated vs Unincorporated Population Distribution in Austin- Round Rock MSA Counties (US Census Bureau)*

Figure 5 shows the general address distribution across the County – although the highest density of population does occur within the incorporated City limits, there are clusters of development throughout the unincorporated area, including, but not limited to, the Camp Swift/ LBA area along SH 95 between Bastrop and Elgin, the Twin Creeks area along FM 812 in southeast Bastrop County, the Circle D-KC Estates area along SH 21 East, the Lake Thunderbird area along FM 2104 northeast of Smithville, and the Del Valle area towards the Travis County line.





**Figure 5 - Address Density in Bastrop County heat map. (The land within the red boundaries is considered "incorporated" or within the City limits.)**

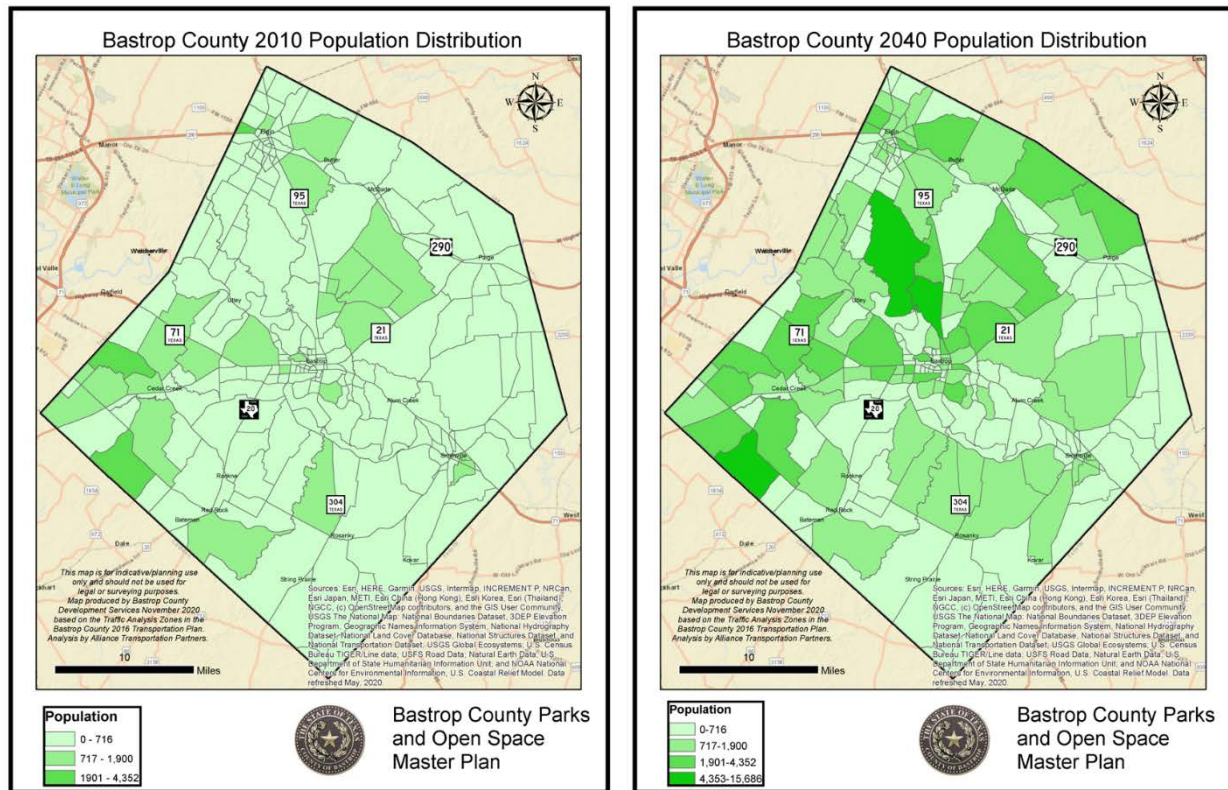


Figure 6 Population Distribution by Traffic Analysis Zone (TAZ) - Bastrop County 2016 Transportation Plan

## Race and Ethnicity

According to the Census Bureau’s American Community Survey 2018 5 year estimates, approximately 68.5 % of the population identifies as “white”, 6.9% identify as “Black or African American”, 3.4% identify as “American Indian and Alaska Native” and 24.6% identified as “some other race”. 39.7% of the County’s population identify as “Hispanic or Latino (of any race)”.

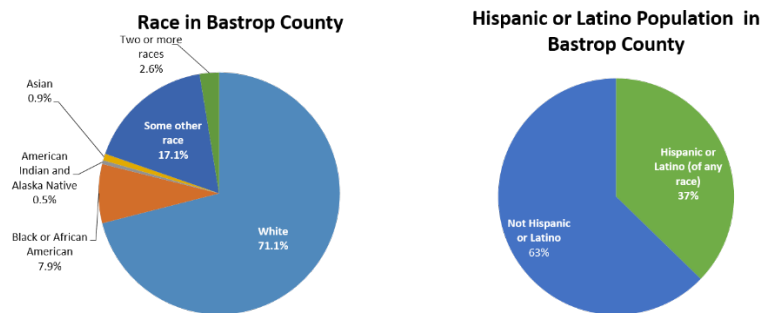


Figure 7 - Race and Ethnicity in Bastrop County, American Community Survey 2018 5 Year Estimates

# Age

The average (median) age of a Bastrop County resident is 38.6, which is 4.2 years higher than the average of the Austin-Round Rock MSA and the State of Texas, and 0.7 years higher than the national average. However, as the bar chart below shows, Bastrop County has a higher percentage of children than the national average – with 25.5% of Bastrop County residents under 18 years of age, compared to only 22.8% of residents in the USA<sup>2</sup>.

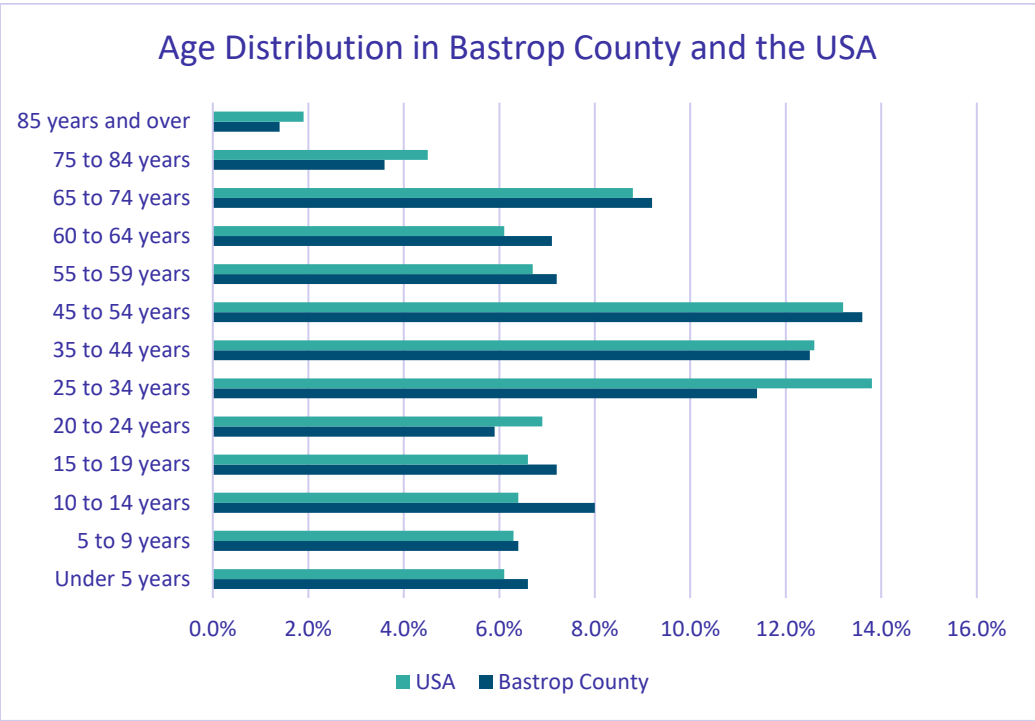


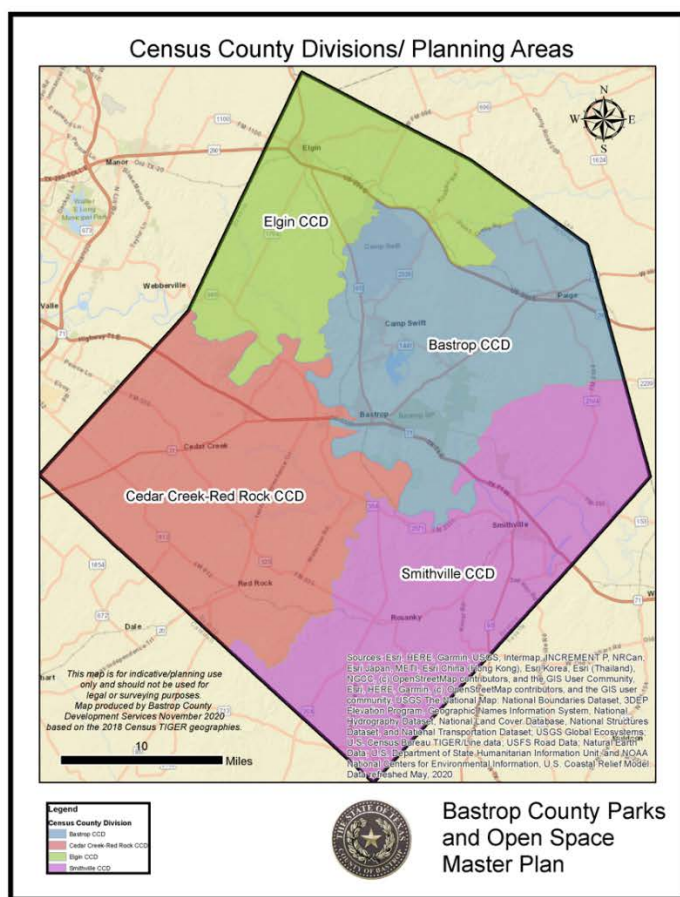
Figure 8

## Socio-economic profile of the four County Census County Divisions/ Planning Areas

The Census Bureau divides the County into four separate “divisions”. The key data for each of these divisions is summarized on the next page. These divisions will also be referenced in the County Parks Inventory Section later on in this report.

Additional maps showing demographic details by census tract and block group can be found in Appendix A of this document.

<sup>2</sup> American Community Survey 2018 5 Year Estimates (US Census Bureau)



American Community Survey 2018 5 Year Estimates	Bastrop CCD	Cedar Creek -Red Rock CCD	Elgin CCD	Smithville CCD
Total population	24,079	30,898	17,517	10,083
Median age	41.4	33.4	37.5	46
Percent white	85.6%	64.4%	66.5%	81.3%
Percent Hispanic	27.8%	49.5%	40.4%	13.2%
Percentage African American	7.3%	6.1%	14.4%	12.5%
Percentage in poverty	8.6%	9.1%	13.2%	10.6%
Average household size	2.91	3.54	3.32	2.64

Figure 9 – American Community Survey Census Data by Census County Division (CCD)

## Public Health in Bastrop County

Access to open space is often cited as a key strategy in the promotion of public health, and so the following section gives a brief overview of some key health demographics of county residents.

According to the American Community Survey 2018 5 Year estimates, **13.7%** of the Bastrop County civilian noninstitutionalized population has a disability, 1.1% higher than the national average. Residents identifying as “Black or African American” or “White alone – not Hispanic or Latino” are more likely to have a registered disability (20.1% and 16.7% respectively) compared to their Hispanic counterparts (8.2%). Bastrop County also had a higher proportion of working age adults reporting a disability – **16.7%** of noninstitutionalized civilians between 35 and 64 years old had a disability, compared with only 9.6% of 35 to 64 year olds across the MSA. Ambulatory difficulties were the most common problem for Bastrop County residents, impacting 8% of noninstitutionalized residents, followed by independent living difficulties, hearing difficulties, and cognitive difficulties.

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Approximately **16.3%** of the Civilian noninstitutionalized population (and 11.1% of children under 19) does have any health insurance coverage, compared to a national average of 9.4%. Almost a fifth (19%) of the civilian population who had jobs still do not have any health insurance coverage.

One of the biggest public health issues in Bastrop County is chronic disease.<sup>3</sup> Adult obesity in Bastrop County is higher than average – per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 38% of adults aged 20+ years in Bastrop County have a body mass index (BMI) classified as “obese”. This is partly attributable to “sedentary lifestyles”. According to the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, 52% of Bastrop County residents did not have access to exercise opportunities (compared to 9% across the USA and 19% in Texas).

Residents of Bastrop County also have longer commutes than the Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) as a whole with a median commute to work time of 34.4 minutes each way; this is around 8 minutes longer than the average commute length for the State of Texas, and 7.3 minutes longer than the mean commute for the Austin-Round Rock MSA. Of the Cities and Census Designated Places (CDPs), the Circle D-KC Estates had the longest commute length (38.2 minutes one way) whereas the City of Elgin had the shortest (26.4 minutes). 14.9% of Bastrop County workers commute 60 minutes or more each way every day compared to only 7.8% across the MSA<sup>4</sup>.

## Previous Planning Efforts

### **Bastrop County Parks Master Plan 2001 – 2011**

Bastrop County originally developed and adopted a Parks and Open Space Master Plan in 2001. At that time, Bastrop County did not own or manage any parks, however one recommendation of the plan was that the County actively procure land for a County Park in southwestern Bastrop County. Cedar Creek Park opened in 2008 on land formerly owned by the Bastrop Independent School District. Site plans were developed by the County as part of the initial acquisition, grant applications and development of the park – Figure 10 shows the proposed long term development and phasing of the site.

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<sup>3</sup> Ascension Seton East Region Community Health Needs Assessment - <https://www.seton.net/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/East-CHNA-May-2019.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> US Census Bureau, American Community Survey 2014-2018 5 Year Estimates



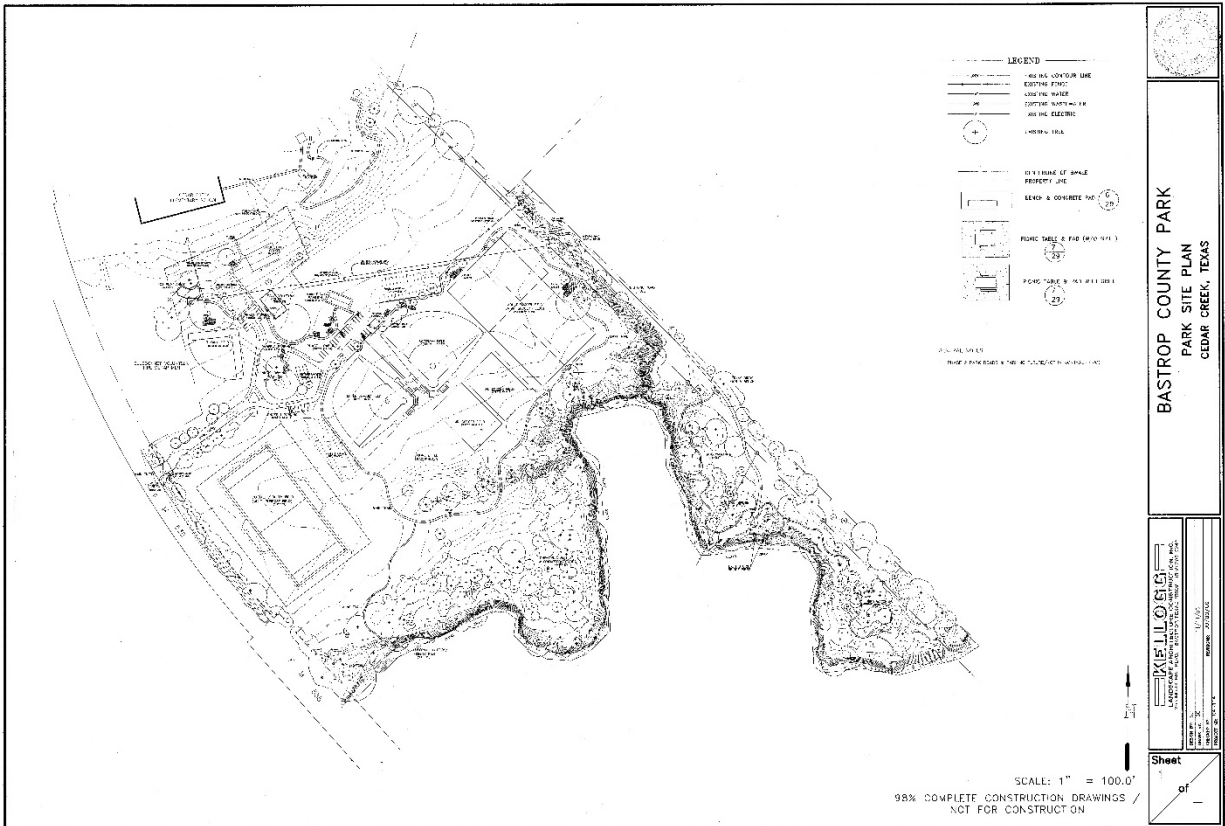


Figure 10 – Cedar Creek Park Site Plan

## Opportunity Bastrop Strategic Plan

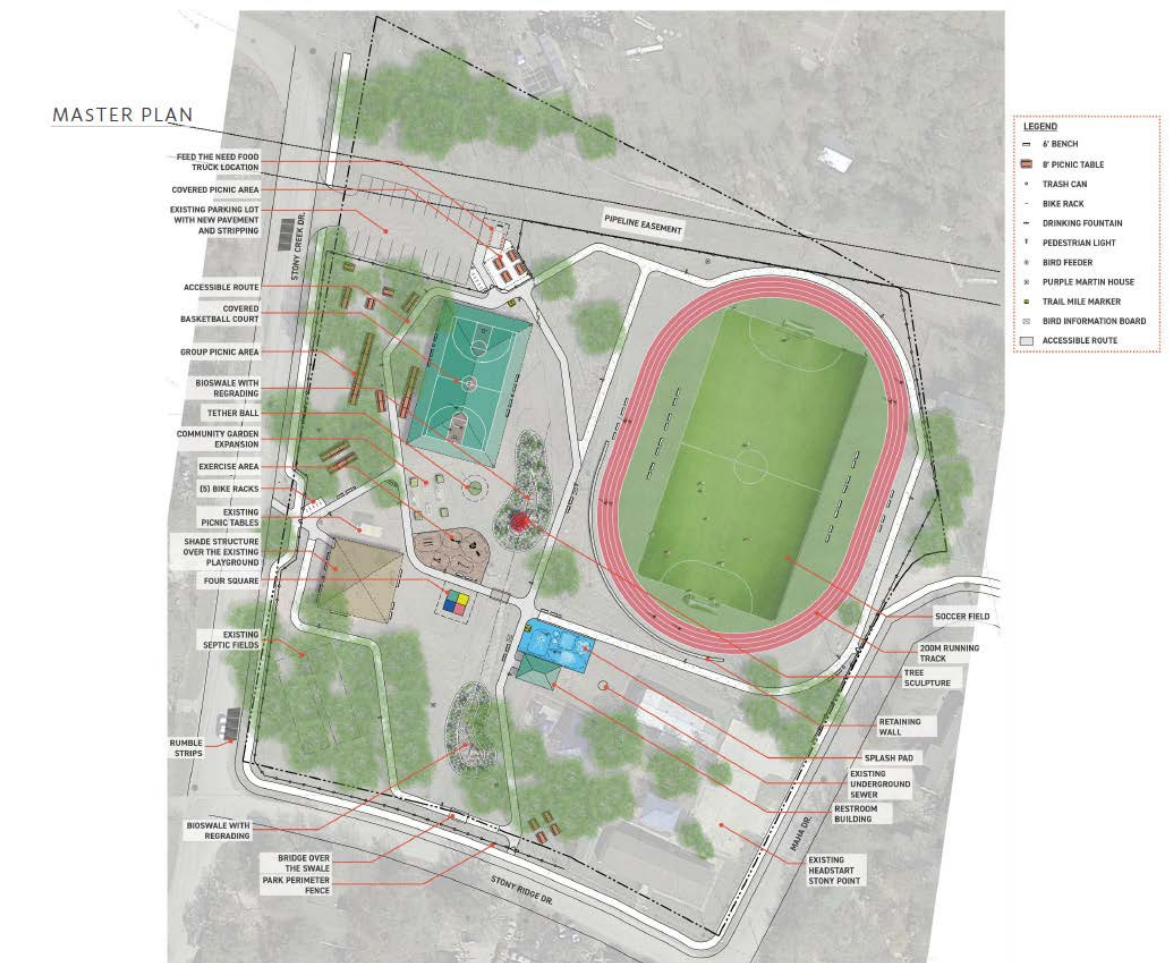
The 2007 “Opportunity Bastrop County” document was adopted by Bastrop County Commissioners Court in 2007 and reviewed in 2017. The document sets out a vision and broad strategic goals for how the County wished to develop in the future. One of the adopted goals for the 2007 plan was to *“retain and enhance the rural character of Bastrop County while encouraging growth that is in balance with human and environmental needs today and in the future”* and as part of this the plan recommended that the County update the 2001 Parks and Open Space Master Plan.

## Lost Pines Nature Trails Management Plan

Prior to the adoption of the Bastrop County Nature Park by the County, the park was known as the “Lost Pines Nature Trails”. In 2015 and 2016, local residents worked with the National Park Service to produce a management plan for the site and identify a series of short term and long term capital improvements. A large proportion of these identified projects focused on improving the security of the park, however one key component of the plan was transferring ownership to the County, which was finalized in 2017.

## Other Planning Efforts

In addition to these planning studies, there have also been a number of planning documents developed by third parties which cover Bastrop County including the Central Texas Greenprint in 2012, and the Healthy Parks Plan for Travis, Bastrop, and Caldwell Counties in 2019. Both of these efforts were managed by the Trust for Public Land, with the latter funded by the St David's Foundation. Bastrop County has utilized some of the data generated by the Trust for Public Land during the Healthy Parks Plan as a baseline for this planning study. The St David's Foundation also provided funding to develop a Master Plan for Stony Point Park in partnership with Bastrop County Cares, a local nonprofit. The plan was developed by Asakura Robinson in 2020 and involved a number of workshops with the local community – the final document has served as input into this wider County Plan.



**Figure 11 - Stony Point Park Master Plan (courtesy of Asakura Robinson)**

The Cities of Bastrop and Elgin also have their own adopted Parks and Open Space Master Plans, and at the time of writing the City of Elgin was in the process of updating its plan.

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## 2. Planning Process and Methodology



*Figure 12 - Bastrop County Nature Park*

### Vision

Bastrop County desires to provide all the residents with adequate, safe, and reliable facilities, and to address the needs of the rapidly growing population within Bastrop County, including the needs for varied types of recreational activities from organized sports to the enjoyment of the natural beauty of the County.

### Time period for the plan

The time period for this plan is 10 years, with a recommended update in 5 years in order to ensure that the plan remains current with the needs of this rapidly growing county. It is also suggested that the County undertake an annual community park survey of local residents in order to consolidate resident suggestions and concerns which may develop over time. This plan may be amended to include additional projects subject to a public outreach process and approval by the Bastrop County Commissioners Court.

### Goals and Objectives

The following goals and objectives were developed by the Bastrop County Parks Advisory Committee and refined through feedback during public meetings in September 2020. The goals are used as a basis for the project scoring criteria which are set out on the following page.



## Plan Goals and Objectives

### **Goal 1.0 Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents.**

*Objective 1.1* All recreational facilities should be designed to provide access regardless of age, sex, income, cultural differences, location in the county, and handicap status.

*Objective 1.2* Parks should be developed in tandem with incorporated communities so that existing resources can be leveraged to address the recreational deficiencies of rural residents.

*Objective 1.3* Parks planning should take into account population distribution and growth in the county so new parks can be placed where the population concentrations are the highest.

*Objective 1.4* Where feasible, all parks should be equipped with sufficient supporting amenities such as bathrooms and accessible parking.

### **Goal 2.0 Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations.**

*Objective 2.1* The County should partner with organizations to provide environmental education opportunities. Interpretive signage and other educational displays need to be incorporated with parks so that future generations do not lose the Bastrop legacy of its natural resources such as the Lost Pines.

*Objective 2.2* Parks should be integrated with the preservation of endangered and declining species.

*Objective 2.3* Wetland and native species preservation should be considered during the acquisition and development of County Parks.

### **Goal 3.0 Public recreation should be integrated with all public services**

*Objective 3.1* Park planning and management should be coordinated with the Sheriff's Department and local community watch networks to ensure the safety of existing and future parks.

*Objective 3.2* All transportation programs need to be linked to facilitating access to future County Parks. Transportation services need to be considered for residents who live in outlying areas.

*Objective 3.3* Where feasible, the County should promote active transportation by identifying pedestrian and biking opportunities to safely link existing parks to nearby high density neighborhoods.

*Objective 3.4* The County should partner with local health providers to encourage park use as a way of improving physical and mental health.

### **Goal 4.0 Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid unnecessary duplication and promote innovation.**

*Objective 4.1* With limited financial resources, the County needs to consider joint venturing with incorporated communities, school districts, State installations, and other non-governmental community organizations so that their re- sources can be leveraged to provide recreational opportunities in the County.

*Objective 4.2* The County should develop partnerships with existing recreation providers to provide programming opportunities.

*Objective 4.3* Surplus lands owned by public entities can be used for park development.

### **Goal 5.0 Park planning should be coordinated with new development.**

*Objective 5.1* As appropriate, the County should collaborate with developers to provide for the recreational needs of the future residents. The County should be open to accepting appropriate park and open space dedication in new subdivision plats.

*Objective 5.2* Flood plains make ideal locations for open space recreational activities – the County should consider park and open space opportunities in the floodplain when approving new subdivisions and when contemplating buyouts for flood mitigation purposes.

*Objective 5.3* Not all parkland is created equal – the County should develop a "Parkland Acceptance Policy" that identifies the criteria for accepting new parkland into the County system which considers both the long term maintenance burden on the County and the potential benefits to the wider community.

### **Goal 6.0 Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts.**

*Objective 6.1* Parks and recreation facilities are economic development issues that affect a company or industry's locational decisions – the County should partner with organizations that will promote activities in the park and attract visitors, and clearly market all of its parks to the public.

*Objective 6.2* Broadband development is critical to the economic resiliency of unincorporated Bastrop County. County parks in areas which have limited internet service should provide Wi-Fi connectivity to the public.

*Objective 6.3* Bastrop County Parks should enhance and maintain public access to, and stewardship of, the Colorado River.

### **Goal 7.0 Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community.**

*Objective 7.1* Parks need to be sensitive to the cultural contributions made by all population groups in the County.

*Objective 7.2* Special occasions or festivals that celebrate events in the County should be incorporated into park planning.

### **Goal 8.0 Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system.**

*Objective 8.1* The Department of General Services should be renamed "Department of General and Park Services" to clearly identify its role within the maintenance and management of existing and future County parks.

*Objective 8.2* Fund raising for parks and recreational programs needs to be an ongoing effort.

*Objective 8.3* Volunteers are critical to the long term sustainability of the Parks system. Bastrop County should establish and support a network of volunteers in partnership with local nonprofits, and develop a "Park Host" program to assist in the maintenance and security of the park.

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## Methodology

This plan was developed over the course of approximately one year, and involved extensive stakeholder and public participation.

The development of the plan was overseen by the Bastrop County Parks Advisory Committee, a resident and stakeholder group established in 2019 by the Commissioners Court in order to provide guidance on program creation and planning, program policy and procedures, planning and implementing public relations, and fund raising for Bastrop County parks and related programs. County staff also worked in partnership with Texas AgriLife Extension Bastrop County Office (who oversee the Master Naturalists and Master Gardener programs in Bastrop County), Keep Bastrop County Beautiful and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Technical Assistance program.

The development of this plan can be broken down into three main phases.

### ***Phase 1 –Community Survey and initial Parks Advisory Committee workshops***

Although in person outreach had originally been planned for the development of the masterplan, in March 2020 the global COVID-19 pandemic forced the County to reevaluate its public outreach strategy and pivot to an online approach.

Workshops with the Parks Advisory Committee were held in spring 2020 to discuss the background to the plan, goals and objectives, outreach strategies, and park standards. The team also gathered data from previous plans and studies that had been undertaken

In May 2020, the County conducted an online survey to generate stakeholder feedback on each of the County parks, as well as identify potential opportunities for capital improvement projects. The survey was made available for approximately 1 month in English and Spanish, and was shared directly with a number of stakeholders including school districts, non-profits, Head Start, City park staff and homeowners' associations as well as being promoted on social media.

161 responses were received to the survey, with the majority of those being located in the 78602 (Bastrop) zip code.

The full results of this survey can be found in the appendices of this plan.

## ***Phase 2 – Initial Public Outreach Meetings***

Following on from a number of summer workshops with the County Parks Advisory Committee, in September 2020 the County hosted a series of online workshops with the local community members where residents were asked for their feedback on the proposed goals and objectives of the plan, as well as the wording and weighting of the project scoring criteria. Summaries of these workshops can be found in the appendices of this document.

As part of this phase a plan website was established which contained details of draft goals and objectives, project ideas, scoring criteria, and demographic and park access maps as well as general educational material in English and Spanish about the County Parks system. The website was also used to share copies of the presentations used during the public meetings for those who were unable to attend.



*Figure 13 - Social Media Graphic for December Meeting (English)*

## ***Phase 3 – Second Series of Public Meetings and publication of Draft Plan***

In December 2020 a second series of virtual public meetings was held. During these meetings, County and National Park Service staff discussed potential project ideas, green infrastructure and flood mitigation opportunities as well as park standards. Around this time, the County also hosted a virtual volunteer and nonprofit workshop in partnership with Texas AgriLife Extension Office and Keep Bastrop

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County Beautiful where collaboration and development opportunities were discussed with existing and potential volunteers. Virtual breakout sessions were utilized in order to ensure as many participants as possible were able to give their input.

## Parks and Open Space Classifications and Standards

### Traditional Park Standards

The most frequently utilized standards for park and recreation facilities are those developed by the National Recreation and Parks Association (NRPA). These standards outline the estimated population that one amenity can serve, or the minimum suggested facilities per population (see table below for examples). Over the last decade and a half, NRPA has moved away from prescriptive park and facility standards and replaced them with level of service (LOS) standards based on comparisons to *peer agencies* serving communities of similar size. The NRPA, in collaboration with the Trust for Public Land and Urban Land Institute, has also developed the 10-Minute Walk campaign, which recommends that residents have access to parks within a ten-minute walk of their front door.

The New Standards for Bastrop County identified in this plan were adapted from NRPA's traditional guidelines, the goals of the 10-Minute Walk campaign, peer agency performance, and community survey responses.

### Select NRPA Traditional Standards

Recreation Facility / Amenity	Suggested amount
Total parkland	10 acres/1,000
Baseball (adult & HS)	1 field/10,000
Baseball (youth)	1 field/6,000
Basketball (outdoor)	1 court/2,000
Basketball (indoor)	1 court/5000
Football Field	1 field/10,000
Golf Course	1 course/25,000
Handball court	1 court/5,000
Horseshoe court	1 court/2,000
Multi-use court	1 court/3,000
Outdoor Theater	1 theater/20,000
Picnic Shelters	1 shelter/2,000
Playgrounds	1 playground/2,000
Soccer Fields	1 field/4,000



<b>Softball Fields (adult)</b>	1 field/3,000
<b>Softball Fields (youth)</b>	1 field/5,000
<b>Swimming Pool (25m)</b>	1 pool/10,000
<b>Swimming Pool (50m)</b>	1 pool/20,000
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	1 court/2,000
<b>Trail, Bicycle</b>	1 mile/2000
<b>Trail, Equestrian</b>	1 mile/6,250
<b>Trail, Exercise</b>	1 mile/7,500
<b>Trail, Hiking</b>	1 mile/4,000
<b>Trail, Jogging</b>	1 mile/2,000
<b>Trail, Nature</b>	1 mile/2,500
<b>Volleyball Courts</b>	1 court/3,000
<b>Wading Pool</b>	1 pool/5,000

*Table 1 - Select NRPA Traditional Standards*



*Figure 14 - Basketball Court at Cedar Creek Park*

NRPA now recommends gauging agency performance not by achievement of the set standards above, but in comparison to agencies serving communities of a similar size. The tables below show data obtained from NRPA for 36 communities with populations between 20,000 and 250,000 residents.

<b>Agency Summary Effectiveness Ratios</b>			
	Total Agencies	Median	Bastrop County General Services (Parks Section)
Operating expenditures per capita	36	\$29	\$0.56
Revenue per capita	32	\$8	0
Total revenue to total operating expenditures	31	24.3%	n/a
Total tax expenditures per capita	31	\$25	0.56
Park operating expenditures per acre of parkland	27	\$1,358	833
Operating expenditures per acre of parkland	30	\$3,987	833
Operating expenditures per acres of parks and non-park sites	24	\$3,120	833
Operating expenditures per FTE	34	\$81,286	833
FTE's per 10,000 population	34	3.6	0.45
Acres of parks per 1,000 residents	30	9.6	0.74
Number of residents per park	31	5,175.3	29574.33
Number of acres per park	30	55.4	22
Number of participants per program	23	166.7	n/a
Ratio of fee programs to all programs	22	83.1%	n/a
Ratio of building attendance to park attendance	19	12.5%	n/a

*Table 2 - NRPA Agency Summary Effectiveness Ratios for Counties with Populations of 20,000-250,000*

Agency Responsibilities			
	Percentage of Agencies Listing this Item as a Responsibility	Number of Agencies Listing this Item as a Responsibility	Bastrop County General Services (Parks Section)
Agency Responsibilities			
a. Operate and maintain park sites	94.1%	32	Yes
b. Operate and maintain indoor facilities	79.4%	27	No
c. Operate, maintain, or contract golf courses	17.6%	6	No
d. Operate, maintain, or contract campgrounds	35.3%	12	Yes (Boy Scouts only at Cedar Creek Park)
e. Operate, maintain, or contract indoor swim facility	23.5%	8	No
f. Operate, maintain, or contract outdoor swim facilities/water parks	47.1%	16	No
g. Operate, maintain, or contract tennis center facilities	32.4%	11	No
h. Operate, maintain, or contract tourism attractions	44.1%	15	No
i. Provide recreation programming and services	79.4%	27	No
j. Operate and maintain non-park sites	64.7%	22	No
k. Operate, maintain, or manage trails, greenways, and/or blueways (TGB)	79.4%	27	Yes
l. Operate, maintain, or manage special purpose parks and open spaces	67.6%	23	No
m. Manage or maintain fairgrounds	11.8%	4	No
n. Maintain, manage or lease indoor performing arts center	8.8%	3	No

	<i>Number of Facilities Operated by Peer Agencies</i>	<i>Median Population Per Facility</i>	<i>Bastrop County General Services (Parks Division)</i>
o. Administer or manage farmer's markets	2.9%	1	No
p. Administer community gardens	14.7%	5	No
q. Manage large performance outdoor amphitheaters	26.5%	9	No
r. Administer or manage professional or college-type stadium/arena/racetrack	8.8%	3	No
s. Administer or manage tournament/event quality indoor sports complexes	14.7%	5	No
t. Administer or manage tournament/event quality outdoor sports complexes	38.2%	13	No
u. Conduct major jurisdiction wide special events	73.5%	25	No
v. Have budgetary responsibility for its administrative staff	79.4%	27	No
w. Include in its operating budget the funding for planning and development functions	61.8%	21	No

*Table 3 - NRPA Agency Responsibilities for Counties with Populations of 20,000 - 250,000*



	Facilities			
		Number of Facilities Operated by Peer Agencies	Median Population Per Facility	Bastrop County General Services (Parks Division)
1	<b>Jurisdiction population per facility or activity areas within facilities:</b>			
	a. Recreation centers	16	49,243.5	Not provided by Bastrop County
	b. Community centers	17	35,108	Not provided by Bastrop County
	c. Senior centers	7	76,397	Not provided by Bastrop County
	d. Teen centers	1	43,051	Not provided by Bastrop County
	e. Fitness center	3	89,866	Not provided - outdoor fitness park provided in Cedar Creek Park
	f. Gyms	5	44,933	Not provided by Bastrop County
	g. Stadiums	7	76,397	Not provided by Bastrop County
	h. Ice rink	1	134,557	Not provided by Bastrop County
	i. Arena	1	160,912	Not provided by Bastrop County
	j. Performance amphitheater	9	149,960	Not provided by Bastrop County
	k. Indoor track	1	78,870.7	Not provided by Bastrop County
	l. Nature centers	9	184,998	Not provided by Bastrop County
2	<b>Jurisdiction population per outdoor facility:</b>			
	a. Playgrounds	28	8,446.1	44,361.5
	b. Totlots	11	30,841.7	Not provided by Bastrop County
	c. Community gardens	5	13,049.5	Not provided by Bastrop County
	d. Basketball courts	25	14,350.3	88,723.0

		<i>Number of Facilities Operated by Peer Agencies</i>	<i>Median Population Per Facility</i>	<i>Bastrop County General Services (Parks Division)</i>
	e. Multiuse courts - basketball, volleyball	14	38,666.7	88,723.0
	f. Tennis courts (outdoor only)	22	7,357.1	Not provided by Bastrop County
	g. Diamond fields: baseball - youth	24	10,475	88,723.0
	h. Diamond fields: baseball - adult	16	45,213.5	Not provided by Bastrop County
	i. Diamond fields: softball fields - youth	20	13,731.9	Not provided by Bastrop County
	j. Diamond fields: softball fields - adult	20	35,564.6	88,723.0
	k. Diamond fields: tee-ball	1	61,666	88,723.0
	l. Skate park	11	112,664	Not provided by Bastrop County
	m. Dog park	19	78,870.7	Not provided by Bastrop County
	n. Ice rink (outdoor only)	0	n/a	Not provided by Bastrop County
	o. Rectangular fields: multi-purpose	21	15,523.1	88,723.0
	p. Rectangular fields: cricket field	1	89,866	Not provided by Bastrop County
	q. Rectangular fields: field hockey field	3	39,600	Not provided by Bastrop County
	r. Rectangular fields: football field	16	22,351	88,723.0
	s. Rectangular fields: lacrosse field	3	24,993.3	Not provided by Bastrop County
	t. Rectangular fields: soccer field - adult	13	23,124.8	88,723.0
	u. Rectangular fields: soccer field - youth	12	10,232.8	12,674.7

		<i>Number of Facilities Operated by Peer Agencies</i>	<i>Median Population Per Facility</i>	<i>Bastrop County General Services (Parks Division)</i>
	v. Overlay field	3	11,562.4	Not provided by Bastrop County
	w. Multipurpose synthetic field	5	13,632.7	Not provided by Bastrop County
<b>3</b>	<b>Jurisdiction population per golf facility:</b>			
	a. Driving range stations	3	10,727.5	Not provided by Bastrop County
	b. Regulation 18-hole courses	5	112,664	Not provided by Bastrop County
	c. Regulation 9-hole courses	0	NA	Not provided by Bastrop County
	d. Executive 9-hole courses	0	NA	Not provided by Bastrop County
	e. Executive 18-hole courses	0	NA	Not provided by Bastrop County
	f. Par 3; 18-hole courses	0	NA	Not provided by Bastrop County
	g. Par 3; 9-hole courses	0	NA	Not provided by Bastrop County
<b>4</b>	<b>Jurisdiction population per swimming/ aquatics facility.</b>			
	a. Aquatics centers	5	134,557	Not provided by Bastrop County
	b. Swimming pools (outdoor only)	12	64,466.3	Not provided by Bastrop County
	c. Indoor competitive swimming pools: 50 meters	4	175,880	Not provided by Bastrop County
	d. Indoor competitive swimming pools: 25 meters	5	89,866	Not provided by Bastrop County
	e. Other indoor competitive swimming pools	1	149,960	Not provided by Bastrop County

		<i>Number of Facilities Operated by Peer Agencies</i>	<i>Median Population Per Facility</i>	<i>Bastrop County General Services (Parks Division)</i>
	f. Indoor separated diving well	2	175,880	Not provided by Bastrop County
	g. Total indoor competitive swimming pools	7	92,525	Not provided by Bastrop County
	h. Indoor pool designated exclusively for leisure	3	92,525	Not provided by Bastrop County
	i. Therapeutic pool	5	92,525	Not provided by Bastrop County

*Table 4 - NRPA Facility Standards for Counties with Populations of 20,000- 250,000*



*Figure 15 - Stony Point Park*

## New Standards for Bastrop County

The NRPA standards and peer agency statistics outlined above provide insight and general guidelines for recreation planning. The resources and population of Bastrop County demanded more detailed analysis and adapted standards to reflect the trends, needs, and desires of county park users. The following standards have been adapted from NRPA traditional standards, peer agency performance data, and resident survey responses.

Most guidelines require that parks be readily accessible by residents to be counted in public park inventories; as such, parks in gated communities, HOA parks, private fields or stadia, and private amenities with entrance fees are generally not included in park and facility calculations.

<b>Recreation Facility / Amenity</b>	<b>Standard</b>
<b>Baseball (adult &amp;HS)</b>	1 field/10,000
<b>Baseball (youth) / Softball</b>	1 field/6,000
<b>Basketball (outdoor)</b>	1 court/2,000
<b>Basketball (indoor)</b>	1 court/5000
<b>Football Field</b>	1 field/10,000
<b>Picnic Shelters</b>	1 shelter/2,000
<b>Playgrounds</b>	1 playground/2,000
<b>Restrooms</b>	1 set per park
<b>Soccer Fields</b>	1 field/4,000
<b>Swimming Pool (25m)</b>	1 pool/10,000
<b>Swimming Pool (50m)</b>	1 pool/20,000
<b>Tennis Courts</b>	1 court/5,000
<b>Trail, Paved</b>	1 mile/10,000
<b>Trail, Unpaved</b>	1 mile/2,000
<b>Volleyball Courts</b>	1 court/3,000
<b>Water Fountains</b>	1 per park
<b>Wading Pool</b>	1 pool/5,000
<b>Distance to Park for Majority of Population</b>	5-mile drive

*Table 5 - Proposed Adjusted Standards*

In addition to periodically updating or modifying the standards outlined above, Bastrop County may consider and adopt other standards relevant to this plan, such as those pertaining to open space, conservation, staff, demand, and programming. All changes to park and recreation facility standards shall follow the same adoption process as other amendments to this plan.

## Other Metrics

As with park standards, there are multiple options for measuring progress in park service provision. One holistic assessment framework is ChangeLab Solution's *Complete Park Indicators: A Systems Approach to Assessing Parks*, which was developed specifically for local governments providing parks and recreation. This guide includes dozens of indicators of community and park system health broken up into the following seven categories:

1. Inclusive, Meaningful, Ongoing Dialogue (*Engage*)
2. Safe Routes to Parks (*Connect*)
3. Equitable Distribution of Complete Parks (*Locate*)
4. Community-Led Park Activities and Programs (*Activate*)
5. Parks Maintenance and Ecology (*Grow*)
6. Safety in and Around Parks (*Protect*)
7. Park Funding (*Fund*)

The *Complete Park Indicators* framework outlines the process of collecting and analyzing data for each of these topics. Data collected can be utilized to assess agency and park performance, identify gaps in service, and prioritize park projects. See more details in Appendix B (*Complete Park Indicators*).

Bastrop County will conduct yearly reviews of its parks and open space utilizing community surveys and the Complete Park Indicators or a similar framework.

## Park Types and Service Areas

In addition to the amenity based standards described above, it is important to take into account the geographical context of where parkland is located, and the varying service areas of each park depending on its size. In 2019, the Trust for Public Land developed the following "Park Type" classification method as part of the development of the St David's Healthy Parks Plan, which is set out in the table below.

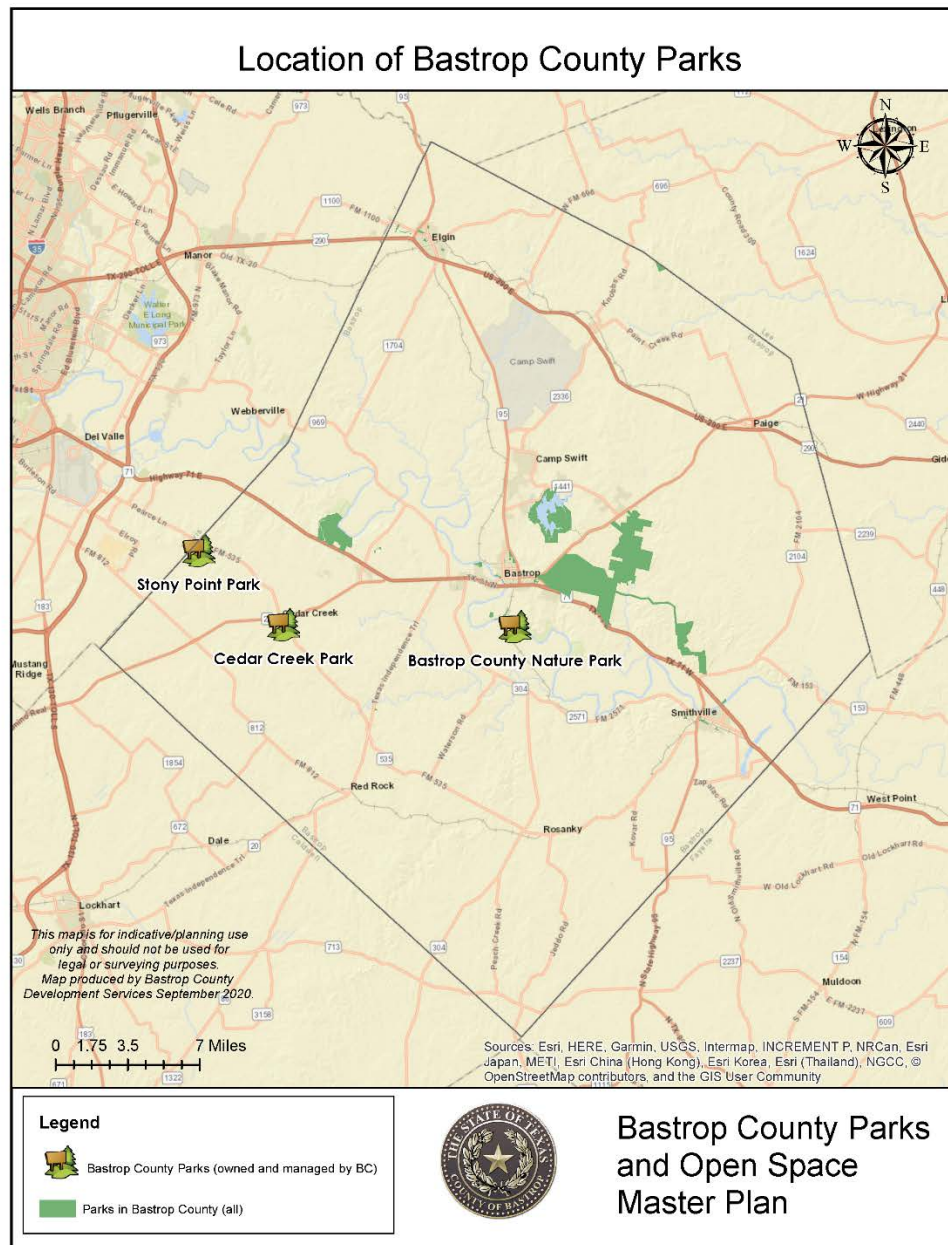
Park Type	Park Size (Acres)	Typical Service Area
Pocket	<1	10-minute walk (0.5 mile)
Neighborhood	1-15	10 minute walk (0.5 mile)
Community	15-30	2 miles (driving)
District	30-200	5 miles (driving)
Metropolitan	200+	10 miles (driving)

*Table 6 - Typical Service Areas by Park Size (Trust for Public Land Healthy Parks Plan)*

These park types were taken into consideration when compiling the Parkland Inventory and Needs Assessment later on in this report.



### 3. Bastrop County Parks Inventory



*Figure 16- Bastrop County Park Locations*

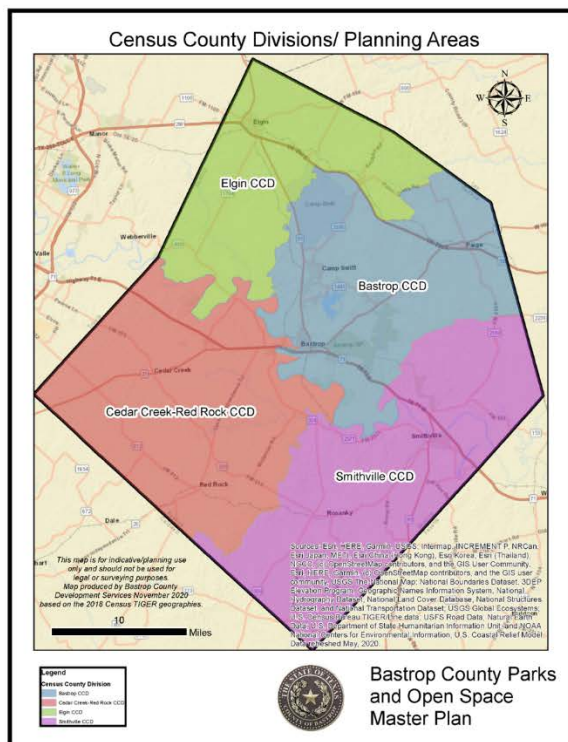
In 2020, there were currently approximately 40 publicly accessible parks located within Bastrop County, covering approximately 9,623 park acres. Public parkland is provided by the three incorporated municipalities, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the Pines and Prairies Land Trust (PPLT), and the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) in addition to Bastrop County General Services. There are also smaller community parks facilities found in the unincorporated area which are provided by local community organizations - the playground at the Rosanky Community Center and the Rockne

Recreation Center in southern Bastrop County were counted as public parks for the purposes of this analysis.

Although it is acknowledged that private facilities such as HOA parks play a critical role in providing park amenities to their own residents, it should be noted that this park inventory does not include Homeowners Association parks, private golf courses or other private facilities. Non-publicly accessible or highly restrictive conservation reserves (such as the Yegua Knobbs Preserve in McDade and the Welsh Tract in eastern Bastrop County), church and school facilities (with the exception of the McDade ISD playground) were also excluded from the analysis.

According to the US Census Bureau annual population estimates for 2019, the Bastrop County population is 88,723\* and therefore there are approximately 108 acres of parkland per 1,000 residents for the County as a whole. In terms of total park acreage, Bastrop County residents are well served, in part due to the presence of two State Parks, which together comprise approximately 80% of the total park acreage.

Park facilities are summarized by Census County Division (CCD) in the table below.



Census County Division	Bastrop CCD	Elgin CCD	Smithville CCD	Cedar Creek-Red Rock CCD	Total
Population	24,079	17,517	10,083	30,898	88,723*
Parks	16	7	10	7	40
Park Acreage	7,175	85	1,122	1,239	9,621
Trail Miles	25.78	0.67	6.73	20.3	53
Basketball Courts	3	4	5	3	15
Multi-Use Fields	1	0	3	1	5
Swimming Pools (outdoor)	1	1	0	0	2
Swimming Pool (indoor)	0	0	0	0	0
Tennis Courts	1	1	0	0	2
Volleyball Courts	1	3	0	1	5
Football Fields	0	0	0	1	1
Baseball/Softball Fields	6	2	4	6	18
Parks with Fitness Zones	1	1	1	1	4
Playgrounds	7	4	5	4	20
Soccer Fields	1	3	1	7	12

**Figure 17 - Total Public Park amenities by Census County Division (\*n.b the total population count for the County is taken from the Census Bureau 2019 Annual Population Estimates Program, and so the figure is higher than the sum of the estimates for each CCD which utilize data from the American Community Survey 2018 5 year estimates)**



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## County Owned Facilities

There are currently 3 parks located within the Bastrop County system, in addition to a Houston Toad Preserve which is not accessible to the public in order to protect the integrity of the habitat.

### Cedar Creek Park

Located at the intersection of SH 21 and FM 535, Cedar Creek Park was granted to Bastrop County in 2008 and was the first Bastrop County Park. The land was formerly owned by the Bastrop Independent School District and was developed utilizing funding from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department and the Lower Colorado River Authority.



*Figure 18 - fitness equipment at Cedar Creek Park*

The park covers approximately 37 acres and is classified as a District Park under the Healthy Parks Plan classifications.

Cedar Creek Park offers a range of sporting facilities including soccer fields, a full size basketball court, adult fitness equipment, baseball fields, and a volleyball court and walking trails. It also includes more general recreational amenities such as two shaded outdoor seating areas, barbeques, a water fountain, walking trails, children's playscape and a butterfly garden which is managed in partnership with the Master Gardeners. Adult fitness equipment and bathrooms were also recently installed.

In addition to the main “developed” area of the park, approximately ten acres of the eastern part of the park adjacent the creek remains mostly undeveloped – including a number of small clearings which are used for camping by the Boy Scouts. An abandoned dirt County Road runs along the north eastern boundary of the site.

### ***Cedar Creek Park Amenities***

The park contains the following amenities:

1. Basketball court
2. Children’s playground equipment
3. Volleyball court
4. Butterfly garden
5. Baseball field and bleachers
6. Soccer field
7. Barbeque facilities
8. Bathrooms
9. Walking trails
10. Trash cans
11. Parking lot
12. Outdoor seating
13. Shelter/gazebo
14. Adult fitness equipment



*Figure 19 – signage at Cedar Creek Park*

### ***Cedar Creek Park Access and Surrounding Facilities***

Cedar Creek is situated within what is arguably the “core” of Cedar Creek Park at the intersection of FM 535 and SH 21, with a mixture of land uses surrounding the site including Cedar Creek Elementary School, the ESD 1 Fire Station, a restaurant and food truck, a convenience store and a local church. There is a residential subdivision approximately 2,500ft to the south of the Park entrance on FM 535, with another residential subdivision under development approximately 2,000 ft to the east of the SH 21/ FM 535 intersection.

There are currently no sidewalks in the vicinity of the park, although the intersection at FM 535 and SH 21 does include a pedestrian crosswalk.



*Figure 20 – baseball fields at Cedar Creek Park*

### ***Cedar Creek Park Environmental Constraints***

The southern part of the park lies within the FEMA 100 year floodplain, with the land immediately adjacent Cedar Creek designated floodway.<sup>5</sup>

The park has suffered flood damages, most recently during the 2015 Memorial Day floods after which the County received a grant from FEMA to repair the bleachers on the baseball fields.

### **Stony Point Park**

Stony Point Park is located within the Stony Point neighborhood in Del Valle, next to the Travis County line. The park was originally platted as a subdivision park, however without a homeowners association there were limited resources available to maintain it. Citing security concerns, local community members petitioned the Commissioners Court to take over the park and it was adopted by the County in 2017. Several park improvements were undertaken in 2019, most notably local non-

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<sup>5</sup> Difference between “floodplain” and “floodway” – according to FEMA, a “floodway” means the channel of a river or other watercourse and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation more than a designated height.



profit Bastrop County Cares partnered with the St David's Foundation, KaBOOM and local community members to construct a new playground and ancillary amenities.



*Figure 21 – Playground developed with KaBOOM! At Stony Point Park*

### ***Stony Point Park Amenities***

The park contains the following amenities:

- a) Soccer field
- b) Picnic tables and seating
- c) Barbeque facilities
- d) Children's Play Park
- e) Take a Book Leave a Book free library
- f) Paved Parking

### ***Stony Point Park Access and Surrounding Facilities***

Stony Point is one of the densest residential neighborhoods in unincorporated Bastrop County, and its gridded roadway network means that it can be accessed by many of the nearby residents. There are no sidewalks adjacent the park, and during community meetings concerns were raised that vehicles posed a safety risk to children walking to the park.

### ***Stony Point Park Environmental Constraints***

There is currently no FEMA identified floodplain within the park. However a ditch runs through the center of the park and often conveys water during storm events. An existing onsite septic facility is

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located in the southern part of the park and serves the Head Start facility in the southeastern corner of the park.

### **Bastrop County Nature Park**

Bastrop County Nature Park (formerly known as the Lost Pines Nature Trails) was adopted by Commissioners Court resolution in 2017. The park of approximately 29 acres was originally platted as a subdivision park within the Tahitian Village subdivision and owned by the Bastrop County Water Control and Improvement District 2. However, the WCID2 had limited resources to maintain the park and so local community members petitioned the Commissioners Court to take over the ownership and maintenance of the park.



*Figure 22 – Colorado River access at Bastrop County Nature Park*

The Bastrop County Nature Park is currently the only County owned park which offers direct access to the Colorado River, and is part of the Texas Paddling Trail. This is often utilized by river outfitters as well as members of the public who use it for swimming, fishing and paddling.

#### ***Bastrop County Nature Park Amenities***

Bastrop County Nature Park contains the following amenities:

- Walking trails
- Picnic tables
- Barbeque facilities
- River access/take in and out point in paddling trail
- Beach area





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- Outdoor classroom
  - Parking
  - Boat ramp
  - Bathrooms (port a potty only)

### ***Bastrop County Nature Park Access and Surrounding Facilities***

The park is located adjacent the 65 acre Colorado River Refuge, which is owned by the Pines and Prairies Land Trust. There are currently no physical barriers between the County owned land and the PPLT land, and so for the user both sites appear as one park. On the eastern side, the park abuts the Pine Forest Golf Club, which is privately owned. Out of the three County Parks, it is the one which has seen the least development.



*Figure 23 - Trails in Bastrop County Nature Park*

### ***Bastrop County Nature Park Environmental Constraints***

About half of the Bastrop County Nature Park lies within identified habitat of the Federally Endangered Houston Toad. Due to its riverside location the entirety of the park is also within the 1% annual chance (100 year) FEMA floodplain, and approximately 63 percent of the 28.5 acres is comprised of soils characterized as “frequently flooded”, although on several occasions, such as the 2015 Memorial Day Flood event, the entirety of the park has been known to flood reaching up to Riverside Drive<sup>6</sup>.

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<sup>6</sup> Lost Pines Nature Trails Management Plan (p3), 2016



*Figure 24 - Bastrop County Nature Park Outdoor Classroom*



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## 4. Needs Assessment and Identification

Bastrop County used a combination of standards based needs assessment, input from local residents, fiscal capacity considerations and best practice analysis of similar jurisdictions to develop a list of project priorities for each Bastrop County Park. Each of these elements fed into the project scoring criteria which were developed to objectively rank and prioritize park needs.

### Other County Park Systems

As part of this planning process, the team conducted a review of other small-medium size County Park systems in Texas in order to establish benchmarks and best practices.

County	Population
Liberty	88,000
Guadalupe	167,000
Tom Green	119,000
Cass	30,000
Montgomery	607,000
Orange	83,000
Victoria	92,000
Matagorda	37,000
Kendall	47,000
Hays	230,000
Bastrop	89,000

*Table 7 - Texas Counties with Similarly Sized Populations which have Park Systems*

The counties above were contacted and interviewed on the number of parks they managed, who manages them, what is their acreage, how are they funded, do they have volunteers, do they have an updated master plan and any advice they would provide growing counties trying to enhance their parks.

Of the few counties that were available for interview, we obtained insightful feedback and potential new ideas that Bastrop County park systems could use. Most of the other counties had recently updated their Park Master Plans in the past 3 years, confirming Bastrop County's desire to keep a current plan for the park system. Of the counties surveyed, only one county had a county led parks department. Other counties had maintenance teams advised by county commissioners and judges. None of the other counties interviewed had park advisory committees. Popular funding opportunities

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from these counties included percentages of county budgets, parking donations at parks, pavilion reservation fees for parties, camping/RV fees, building rent outs, and local fundraising for community amenities like a disc golf course. Typical volunteer programs for other county parks included, county inmates participating in clean-ups once a month, school booster clubs fundraising activities, and Boys/Girl Scouts gaining field experience in the parks. Lastly, some overall advice received mentioned taking advantage of Texas Parks and Wildlife opportunities, tending to the community, and making sure to purchase recreation amenities that last.

## Input from Local Residents

Community input comprised the cornerstone of the needs analysis in the unincorporated part of the County. (An overview of the various stage of community input can be found in Section 2 of this plan). A key component of this was the initial online community survey, which was made available for approximately 1 month during spring 2020.



*Figure 25 - new permanent restrooms in Cedar Creek Park. Restrooms were one of the most requested amenities by local residents*

Top 10 Amenities Requested by Local Residents			
Stony Point Park	Bastrop County Nature Park	Cedar Creek Park	Bastrop County Overall
1. Splash pad	1. Bathrooms	1. Bathrooms	1. Bathrooms
2. Water fountains	2. Water fountains	2. Splash pad	2. Water fountains
3. Bathrooms	3. Sidewalks within the park	3. Water fountains	3. Shade
4. Programming/County Sponsored Events	4. Shade	4. Programming/County Sponsored Events	4. Sidewalks within the park
5. Basketball court	5. Benches	5. Shade	5. Benches
6. Sidewalks within the park	6. Sidewalks to access the park	6. Picnic tables	6. Sidewalks to access the park
7. Picnic tables	7. Programming/County Sponsored Events	7. Recreation Center	7. Programming/County Sponsored Events
8. Community garden	8. Picnic tables	8. Benches	8. Picnic tables
9. Recreation Center	9. Community garden	9. Sidewalks within the park	9. Splash pad
10. Shade	10. Climbing wall	10. Community garden	10. Community garden

*Table 8- Top 10 Park Improvements from 2020 Community Survey*

In the survey residents were asked to identify required park improvements for both the County Parks system as a whole, and for each individual park. The results are set out in the table above.

The top 10 needs are reflected in the project scoring criteria, with additional points being allocated to projects that appear in the above table. Residents were also given the opportunity to provide input on the project scoring criteria and their weightings through interactive polling during the virtual public meetings.

The following additional comments were also noted during the public participation component of this plan:

- Improved trash pick-up was the most requested maintenance improvement, followed by sidewalk/trail improvements.
- Many residents stressed the need to retain Bastrop County Nature Park in its existing state as a natural area – they did not wish to see major additional capital improvements with the exception of essential amenities.
- A number of residents were interested in volunteering at County Parks, particularly in conjunction with existing organizations such as the Master Naturalists and Keep Bastrop County Beautiful, Central Texas Trail Tamers, Ranch House Recovery and Down Home Ranch. Potential volunteers felt that training opportunities in things like trail maintenance and leading nature hikes would be helpful, as would the provision of a more efficient and comprehensive communication system to let residents know about potential volunteering



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opportunities. Some also suggested partnering with the local School Districts and other organizations that have a service requirement in order to broaden the pool of potential volunteers.

- There is a need for programming and dedicated park staff.
- The County should work the local health providers to ensure patients are aware of the parks as an opportunity for fitness.
- There were some concerns about park security and nuisance vehicles, and a need for law enforcement in the parks. During the public meetings there was also a suggestion that the local residents groups could work to maintain the security of the parks.
- Other capital improvements needs including:
  - Lighting
  - Swimming pool
  - Parking lot improvements
  - Stocked fishing ponds with dock
  - Pickle ball courts
  - Improved creek access
  - Tennis courts

## Park Access Analysis and Considerations for Future Parkland Acquisition

Park access was also considered during the needs assessment when discussing potential additional parkland acquisition in the future. During initial meetings with the Parks Advisory Committee and the general public it was acknowledged that the typical urban standard of having every resident within 10 minute walk to a park was unreasonable in the unincorporated area due to the relatively low population density outside the City limits, and so the team investigated alternative access benchmarks more appropriate to the density of the County.

The maps on the next three pages show two different ways of considering park access at a spatial level. The first map (figure 25) shows all Bastrop County land within 5 mile driving distance from any publicly accessible park, regardless of park size, as recommended by the Robert Woods Foundation County Health Indicators. The next two pages (figures 26 and 27) show park access by park size and service area as set out in table 6 in Section 2 of this report (derived from the Trust for Public Land's Healthy Parks Plan).

In both cases, there are large areas of the unincorporated area which do not have sufficient access to a park, particularly in the southern/ southeastern and eastern parts of the county, as well as along the FM 1704 corridor. However, if the County were to use the Healthy Parks Plan approach, then the

acquisition of land for larger parks (over 30 acres) may be more effective than acquiring land for smaller parks because the service area for larger parks would cover a greater part of the County. Nevertheless, it is also acknowledged that there are a small number of areas of the County which have a higher population density (such as the Camp-Swift LBA Census Designated Place), and smaller sized parks may be suitable in those areas.

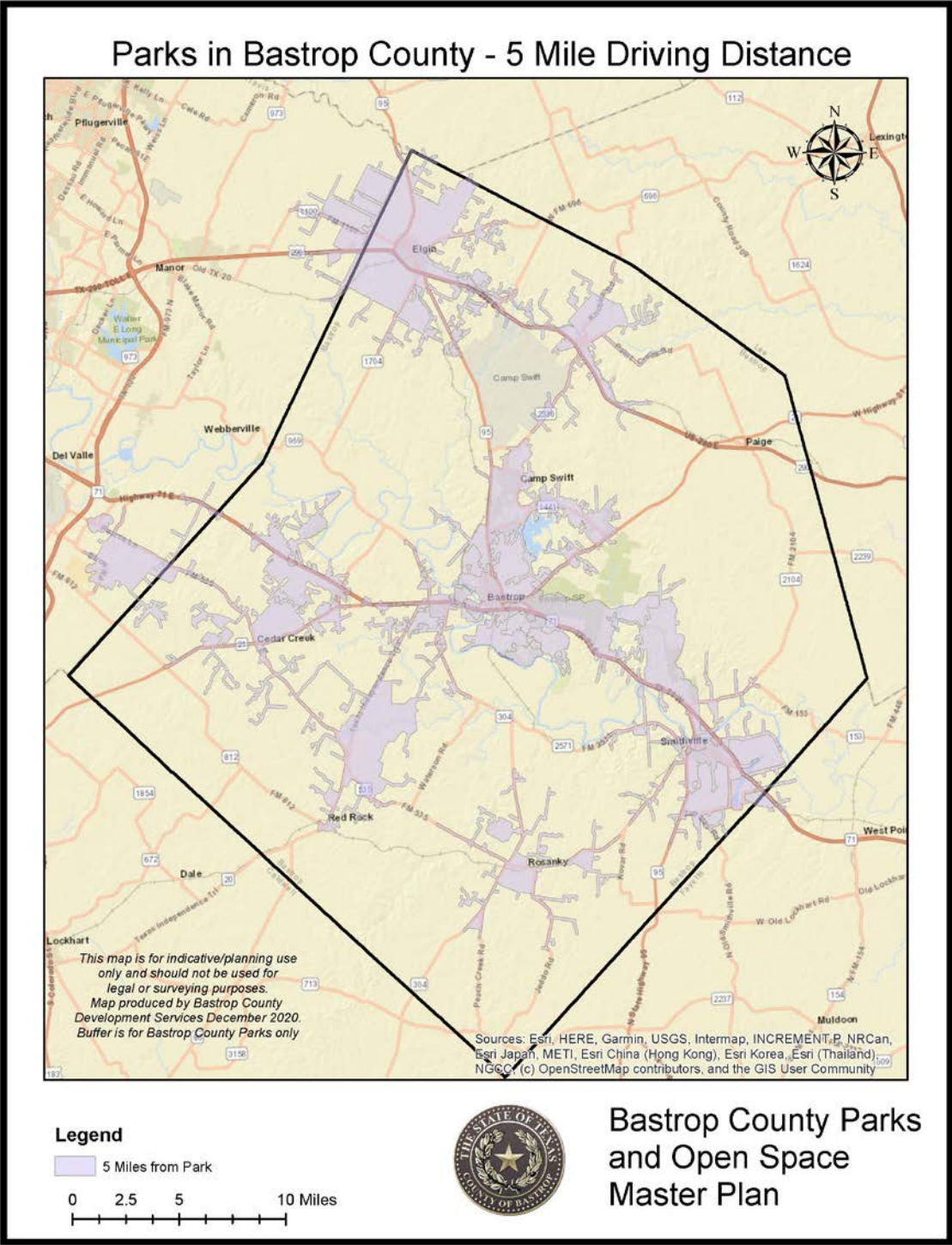
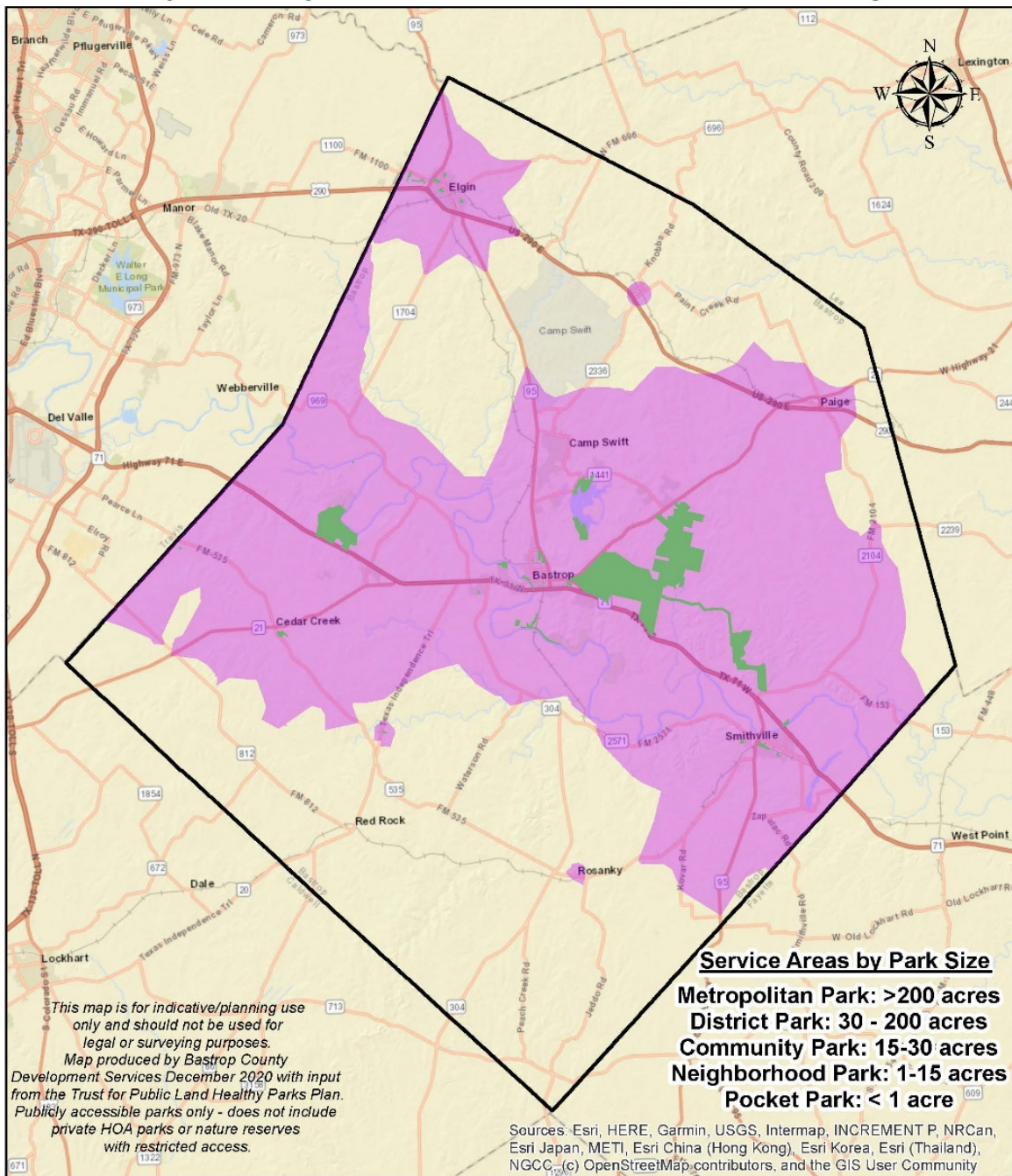


Figure 26 - 5 Mile Drive Distance from any Park in Bastrop County

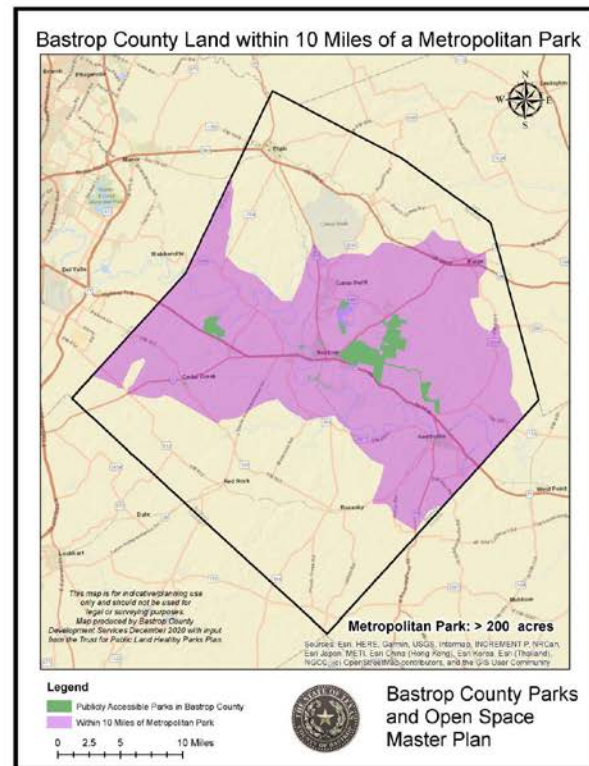
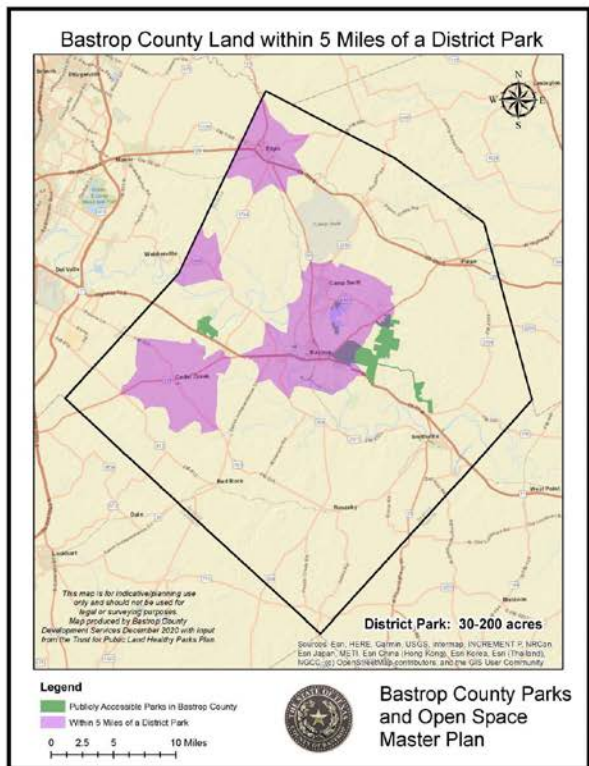
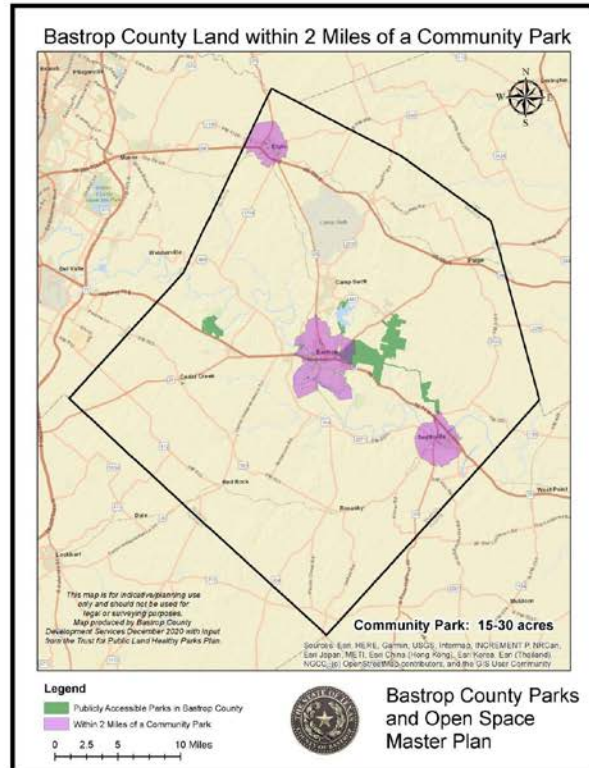
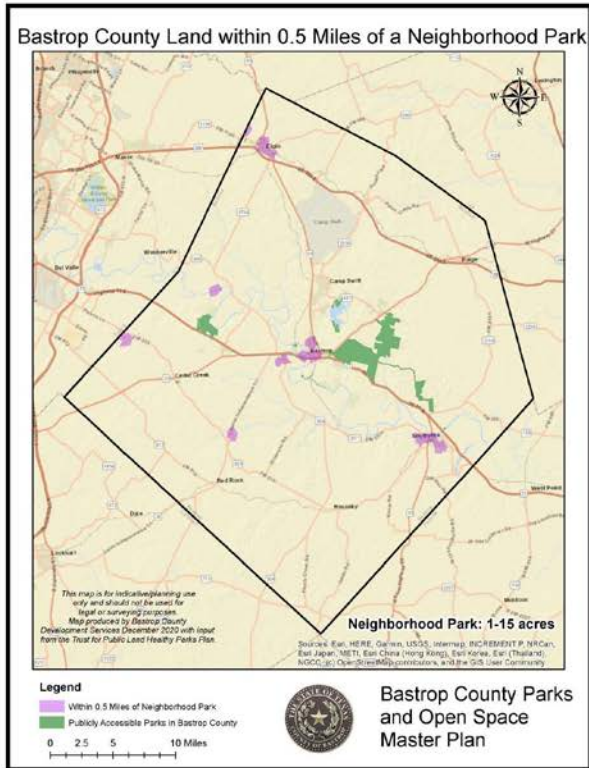


## Bastrop County Land within Service Area of Any Park



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

Figure 27 - Bastrop County Land within the Service Area of any Park



**Figure 28 - Park Service Areas Comparison**



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## Project Priorities

### Project Scoring Criteria

The scoring criteria and weightings were developed in consultation with the Parks Advisory Committee, with additional input received through the public participation process. These scoring criteria were then used to rank each project in order of priority.

Number	Criteria	Relevant Goal	Total Points Available
1	Project provides an essential amenity in the park.	1	5
2	The project provides a new facility in an underserved area.	1	15
3	The project will actively support or restore sensitive ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for natural resources, including endangered species.	2	10
4	Project will promote active transportation by providing bike/ ped infrastructure linking parkland to nearby residential neighborhoods and/or other parks.	3	5
5	Project will improve public safety within the parks.	3	5
6	The project will be undertaken in partnership with another organization.	4	10
7	Project will have a positive impact on the floodplain	5	10
8	The project will promote broadband connectivity within the parks.	6	5
9	The project will promote Tourism within Bastrop County	6	5
10	The project will enhance access to the Colorado River	6	5
11	The project actively protects and increases awareness of existing cultural resources	7	5
12	Project has a low ongoing maintenance requirement	8	15
13	Project will improve the efficiency and sustainability of park operations	8	5
14	Project is identified as a Top 10 need in the Bastrop County Parks Survey	n/a	10
15	Project improves facilities already located within an existing park.	n/a	5
16	Project does not require additional utility hookups (with the exception of “essential amenities”) <sup>7</sup>	n/a	5
		Total	120

Table 9

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<sup>7</sup> “Essential amenities” include bathrooms, parking and waste infrastructure.



## Prioritized Project List for each County Park

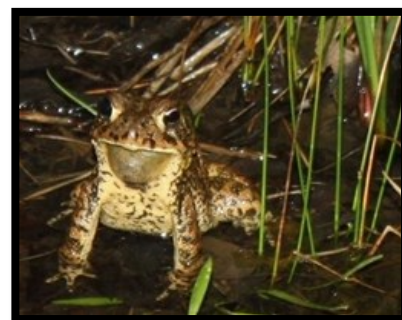
A prioritized project list was developed for each of the 3 County Parks. Due to the long range nature of this plan, inclusion within this list or the associated implementation strategy in Chapter 6 does not constitute a formal commitment by the County to undertake these improvements, rather it acts as a guide for future funding decisions by the Court. Projects will need to be formally approved by Commissioners Court before they can move forward for implementation. Ongoing maintenance of existing amenities, although not specifically listed, is also considered to be fundamental to the long term success of the County parks system.

<b>Bastrop County Nature Park Projects</b>			
<b>Ranking</b>	<b>Project Description</b>	<b>Indicative Cost</b>	<b>Priority</b>
1	Installation of entrance signage (to include park rules, contact details and trail map developed in partnership with PPLT)	\$8,800	High
2	Installation of Information Kiosk w/ volunteering opportunities/community events as well as park rules, trail maps and contact details	\$18,293	High
3	Installation of ADA accessible, flood proof bathrooms	\$198,000	High
4	Trail upgrades and wayfinding signage within the park	\$11/ft for natural surface, \$9-13/sqft for concrete	High
5	Installation of solar powered automatic gate	\$22,000	Medium
6	Installation of pavilion and outdoor classroom (upgrades)	\$38,500	Medium
7	Install additional benches	\$1,100 each	Medium
8	Upgrades to existing boat ramp and installation of contextual signage	Signage: \$2200; Ramp upgrades: varies	Low
9	Water fountains (2)	\$1,100	Low
10	Install Solar Power Trash Cans	\$38,500	Low

*Table 10 - Bastrop County Nature Park Projects – costs include 10% contingency*

### *Note on the Houston Toad*

Development activities within the Bastrop County Nature Park will follow the Lost Pines Habitat Conservation Plan (LPHCP) guidelines and meet any USFWS requirements for the endangered Houston toad.



*Figure 29 - Houston Toad*

Stony Point Park Projects			
Ranking	Project Description	Indicative Cost	Priority
1	Construct basketball court/ shade structure	Court: \$66,000 Shade: \$33,000	High
2	Install shade structure over existing playground	\$22,000	High
3	Tree sculpture/ art project	Varies	High
4	Construct ADA accessible circular trail around park (including 2 footbridges)	Stabilized DG: \$8.25/sqft; Concrete:\$13,20/sqft	High
5	Construct 200 meter running track around soccer field with retaining wall	Track: \$44,000 for stabilized DG, \$19,800 for DG; Concrete edge: \$25,000; Retaining wall: Varies	High
6	Construct bio swale with retrogrades within existing drainage channel	\$11,000	High
7	Construct pavilion	\$38,500	Medium
8	Installation of bike racks (5)	\$1,980	Medium
9	Installation of ADA accessible bathrooms	\$198,000.0	Medium
10	Expand existing community garden	\$5,500.0	Medium
11	Install dog proof fencing around park perimeter	\$42,900.0	Medium
12	Installation of additional seating and picnic tables	\$1,100 each	Low
13	Installation of telecommunications infrastructure to enable public wifi connectivity in the park	\$2,200.0	Low
14	Install four square court	\$5,500 (concrete pad)	Low
15	Upgrades to existing picnic area	Varies	Low
16	Install splash pad	\$88,000.0	Low
17	Construct new covered picnic area and adjacent visiting food truck spot	\$55,000.0	Low
18	Install tetherball	\$1,100.0	Low
19	Install outdoor exercise equipment	\$33,000.0	Low
20	Upgrades to soccer field including new posts/ netting and installation of benches	Posts: \$6,600; Bleachers: \$11,000	Low

Table 11 -Stony Point Park projects

Cedar Creek Park Projects			
Ranking	Project Description	Indicative Cost	Priority
1	Establish/ construct and maintain a community garden	\$11,000.0	High
2	Installation of event pavilion	\$136,400.0	High
3	Install bike racks	\$1,100.0 each	High
4	Trail improvements and wayfinding signage (various)	\$11/ft for natural surface, \$8.8-\$14.4/sqft for concrete	High
5	Installation of additional picnic tables	\$1,430 each	High
6	Installation of additional benches	\$1,100 each	High
7	Upgrades to entrance with Landscaping and Signage	Signage- \$1,650; Landscaping: varies	High
8	Installation of telecommunications infrastructure to enable public Wi-Fi connectivity in the park	\$2,200.0	Medium
9	Upgrades to sports courts including installation of energy efficient/ drip irrigation system.		Medium
10	Install splash pad	\$88,000.0	Medium
11	Swimming pool (management partnership would be required for ongoing maintenance)	\$2,200,000.0	Medium
12	Dog Park	\$16,500.0	Low
13	Additional soccer field and goal posts	\$16,500.0	Low
14	Upgrades to Sports Courts	Varies	Low
15	Upgrades to play equipment	Varies	Low
16	Upgrades to baseball fields	Varies	Low

**Table 12 - Cedar Creek Park Projects**



**Figure 30 - Cedar Creek Park**

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## 5. Green Infrastructure

As part of the development of this plan, Bastrop County partnered with the National Park Service (NPS) to identify potential green infrastructure opportunities to improve the resilience of the park system. The section outlines ideas which should be explored by the County in each of the three parks, although the final project details will be contingent upon further engineering and feasibility studies.

### The Case for Green Infrastructure

Green infrastructure (GI) is a technical practice that integrates the use of natural and manmade features to create a conducive environment whereby storm water and rainwater can safely runoff land. GI aids in preventing unnecessary damage and erosion to property by re-using or channeling rainwater runoff to vegetative swales, retention basins, and other mitigation sites. These mitigation sites allow for retaining of the rainwater by allowing the water to be absorbed into vegetation or by collecting the water in a more suitable and controlled area. Common examples of GI include wetlands, retention ponds, bioswales, rain gardens, pervious pavers, planters, tree trenches, and bump outs.

Reference Image:



Source: Stormwater Wet Pond & Wetland Management Guidebook | [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov)

As Bastrop County seeks to redefine and improve its existing park amenities, a recommendation for improvement from the National Park Service is the incorporation of green infrastructure within the parks. Green infrastructure is not currently an intentional practice within Bastrop County Parks. It is understood that implementing green infrastructure in our parks would benefit sites by reducing flood risk, increasing usability, enhancing beatification, protecting ecosystems, and protecting watershed.

### **Summary of the Benefits:**

**Reducing Flood Risk:** GI reduces flood risks by creating natural absorption sites within a property or re-directing storm water to controlled spaces.

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**Increasing Site Usability:** GI increases usability of sites by lowering the risk of large-scale flooding through storm water re-direction and supporting the absorption process, consequently creating more usable land due to the lower risk of premature wetlands.

**Enhancing Beautification:** Utilizing GI can naturally create a more beautiful and scenic park by using plants, stones, or other nature friendly material. Proper installation of mitigation resources can make GI attractive features on park property with generally low maintenance.

**Protecting Ecosystems:** Implementing GI will keep the balance of ecosystems in place by preventing the devastation that comes from floods. Flood water can cause not only plant species displacement but also animal and marine life havoc.

**Protecting Watersheds:** While premature flooding may occur, premature watersheds create undo mayhem in many areas due to the lack of control from early designation. Having flooding can pollute the natural and designated watersheds by displacing materials both natural and manmade. GI helps protect watersheds by implementing features that control and protect both the land use as designated and the water resources.

Additionally, utilizing GI could assist the county in acquiring lands that might be deemed unusable from a development perspective but practical for public parks or recreation. Lands that are deemed unusable for development do exist in heavily saturated real estate areas where there may not be current or existing “close to home” park and recreational opportunities. Consequently, utilizing minimally flood prone lands through green infrastructure mitigations may provide an easy opportunity for Bastrop County to acquire public land at reduced costs to better serve the populations not near a park.

### **Park Specific Proposals for Green Infrastructure**

After scoping the parks of Bastrop with county staff, the National Park Service recommends select GI improvements that could encourage the long-term viability of these sites. The recommendations that NPS illustrates are only proposals for what can be done at each site to protect or improve natural drainage and increase recreational opportunities. Recommendations that require significant change to a site should go through a proper architectural and land survey process.

#### **Stony Point: A Bioswale to Enhance the Drainage Channel**

Stony Point exists as a park on two elevations and two distinct planes. Separating these planes is a drainage channel that dissects the park. This channel while designated is not controlled nor is it able to be crossed without stepping into the channel area. The danger of not having a clearly controlled space



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on the park site includes increased risk of injury via slipping, risk of unintentional social widening from trampling and walking in the channel, and risk of unsafe crossing. NPS recommends configuring the drainage channel as a bioswale by utilizing planting with retrograde into the channel and the option of lining the direct area of flow with stones. The plants along the bank of the channel will allow for absorption while the stones will assist with flow and distinguishing the space. This design will facilitate a controlled space by creating an aesthetically pleasing space that would highlight this area in the park. Foot bridges traversing that channel also is recommended to keep the channel as a controlled feature and create safe passage between the two planes.

**REFERENCE IMAGES:**



Source: Foot Bridge Options | [redwoodbridges.com](http://redwoodbridges.com)

**Cedar Creek Park: A Retention Pond that could be utilized for Recreational Fishing**

Cedar Creek Park boasts the most expansive recreation resources for the county and in many ways exists as a central park option. Seeing that this park already hosts various recreational opportunities it would be fitting to explore ways to capitalize and expand on this reputation if possible. One issue that has occurred at this site in the past is severe flooding. Due to the site's topography of relative flatness around the primary fields, with the dramatic topography shift occurring near the creek, the land is ripe for flooding and pooling issues. A recommendation that could address this long-term issue would be the construction of a recessed retention pond that could also be utilized for fishing. A recessed retention pond would benefit this site by providing a low point for the runoff to go to after a storm or rain fall. Additionally, this pond could benefit the park system by creating a new recreation resource by adding fish to the pond. It is recommended that the fish could be sourced from Fish & Wildlife free of charge, but this needs to be verified. Additionally, this retention pond would ideally be siphoned via a diversion stream that directly flowed down to the creek allowing for steady alleviation of the pond especially during periods of high rain fall. A dam system of some sort might also need to be implemented into the diversion stream to ensure that the pond does not become overly siphoned.

## REFERENCE IMAGES:

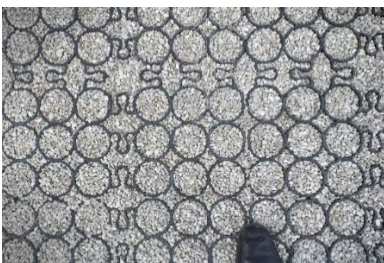


Figure 31- Source: Greenfield Park | mesaparks.com

### Bastrop County Nature Park: Parking that is Permeable

Bastrop County Nature Park is a unique gem amongst the park sites in that it is a riverside park. While being a riverside park comes with the great benefits and wonder of water access. The water also poses great threats to the park site. Some of the common occurrences at this site is the over saturation of sand and the high likeliness of river water intermittently rising to overtake the park. When the rising levels of water occur, the park is always at risk of flooding. Due to this most of the site is not feasible for development of permanent and impermeable structures. This disadvantage for construction is at odds with the overall demand of use at the park that require increased parking availability at the site. To address this issue NPS has recommended expanding parking but by using permeable pavers such as TRUEGRID™ or HEXpave™. Pavers such as these allow the creation of a parking structure that can maintain compaction while supporting fluid permeability. These would benefit this park site better than any form of asphalt or concrete due to the need to avoid holding water. Moreover, pavers such as these would decrease the likelihood of contributing to river pollution via runoff due to their penetrable design. An additional advantage of permeable pavers is that it supports the sites functional designation as a dam diversion outlet location, or an area that's intended to be used as overflow for the river. Implementing permeable pavers will help secure the long-term viability of this site and decrease the likelihood of runoff pollution if future flooding or diversion were to occur at the site.

## REFERENCE IMAGES:



Source: Permeable Paver | truegridpaver.com

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Additional Resources on Green Infrastructure:

- **Green Infrastructure in Parks:** [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/gi\\_parksplaybook\\_2017-05-01\\_508.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2017-05/documents/gi_parksplaybook_2017-05-01_508.pdf)
- **The Value of Green Infrastructure:** A Guide to Recognizing it's Economic, Environmental & Social Benefits:  
<https://www.cnt.org/publications/the-value-of-green-infrastructure-a-guide-to-recognizing-its-economic-environmental-and>
- **The Stormwater Wet Pond & Wetland Management Guidebook:**  
<https://www3.epa.gov/npdes/pubs/pondmgmtguide.pdf>
- **The Economic Benefits of Green Infrastructure:**  
[https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/cnt-lancaster-report-508\\_1.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2015-10/documents/cnt-lancaster-report-508_1.pdf)

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## 6. Implementation

### Implementation Strategy and Timeline

#### Short Term (Years 1-3)

- Identify specific volunteering opportunities and promote them on the County website and through the Bastrop County Connects Platform.
- Change the name of the General Services Department to “General and Park Services”.
- Identify public and private grant opportunities for capital improvement projects as well as programmatic funding, such as volunteer development and training.
- Identify and develop facility use policies (including events management), fees and reservation system.
- Commission a detailed topographical survey for each of the existing County Parks.
- Seek funding for approved projects marked as “high priority” in the prioritized project list.

#### Mid-Term (Years 4-6)

- Allocate County funding for a full time Park Coordinator position to be located within the General and Park Services Department to be responsible for volunteer management and program development.
- Identify and acquire land for a park in the Camp Swift-LBA area.
- Identify and acquire land for an additional park with access to the Colorado River between the Bastrop County Nature Park and Smithville.
- Develop a “Park Host” program for Bastrop County Nature Park and Cedar Creek Park.
- Seek funding for approved projects marked as “medium priority” in the prioritized project list.
- Active transportation opportunity for Bastrop County Nature Park -Develop and seek funding to construct a side path/ trail along Riverside Drive to connect into City of Bastrop's proposed Active Transportation Network.

#### Long Term (Years 7-10)

- Seek funding for approved projects marked as “low priority” in the prioritized project list.
- Acquire land for district and metropolitan parks in underserved parts of the County.
- Investigate feasibility of ADA accessible sidewalks/ hike and bike trail along SH 21 and FM 535 to provide safe bike and pedestrian access to access to Cedar Creek Park– (will require concurrence from TXDOT).



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## Partnerships

Bastrop County cannot implement this plan alone – partnerships are vital to the long term sustainability of the County Parks system. The following is a list of potential partners who the County should seek to engage with over the period of this plan:

- Texas Agri-life Extension
  - Bastrop County Master Naturalists
  - Bastrop County Master Gardeners
  - Bastrop County Master Wellness Volunteers
- Keep Bastrop County Beautiful
- Bastrop County Cares
- School Districts
- Austin Area YMCA
- The incorporated Cities of Smithville, Elgin and Bastrop
- Texas Parks and Wildlife
- Local Health Providers
- The Lower Colorado River Authority



*Figure 32 – Stony Point Park*

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## Bastrop County Parks Acceptance Policy Recommendations

- Before any parkland acquisition, annual maintenance cost estimates should be developed in partnership with the General Services Department and the Sheriff's Office. This should be assessed on a case by case basis, although as a guideline 2 additional FTE grounds keeping staff will be required for each new park.
- Larger parks have a greater service area and ensure sufficient land is available to accommodate parking and essential amenities. Smaller parks (typically, less than 30 acres) are considered appropriate under the following circumstances:
  - The park will provide public access to the Colorado River, or
  - The parkland is immediately adjacent/ contiguous to an existing County owned and managed park, or
  - The park will be located within a Census Designated Place (CDP) as defined by the US Census Bureau.
- Should a group of local community members request that the County adopt an existing park onto the County system, the community members should establish a "Local Parks Residents Committee" of at least 5 (five) members who shall be responsible for providing oversight and assisting in the fundraising, management and community engagement in the park. The Chair of said committee shall be recommended as the Local Parks Representative on the Bastrop County Parks Advisory Committee.
- All new parkland should have road frontage onto a publicly maintained road and should be able to comply with the Bastrop County Driveway Regulations.
- New park acquisition should improve park access and increase the percentage of County residents who live within a 5 mile drive of a publicly accessible park. Parkland acquisition should prioritize areas of existing and anticipated high residential growth.



*Figure 33 – Bastrop County Nature Park*





# Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan 2021-2031 Community Outreach Map Book

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*Updated December 2020*

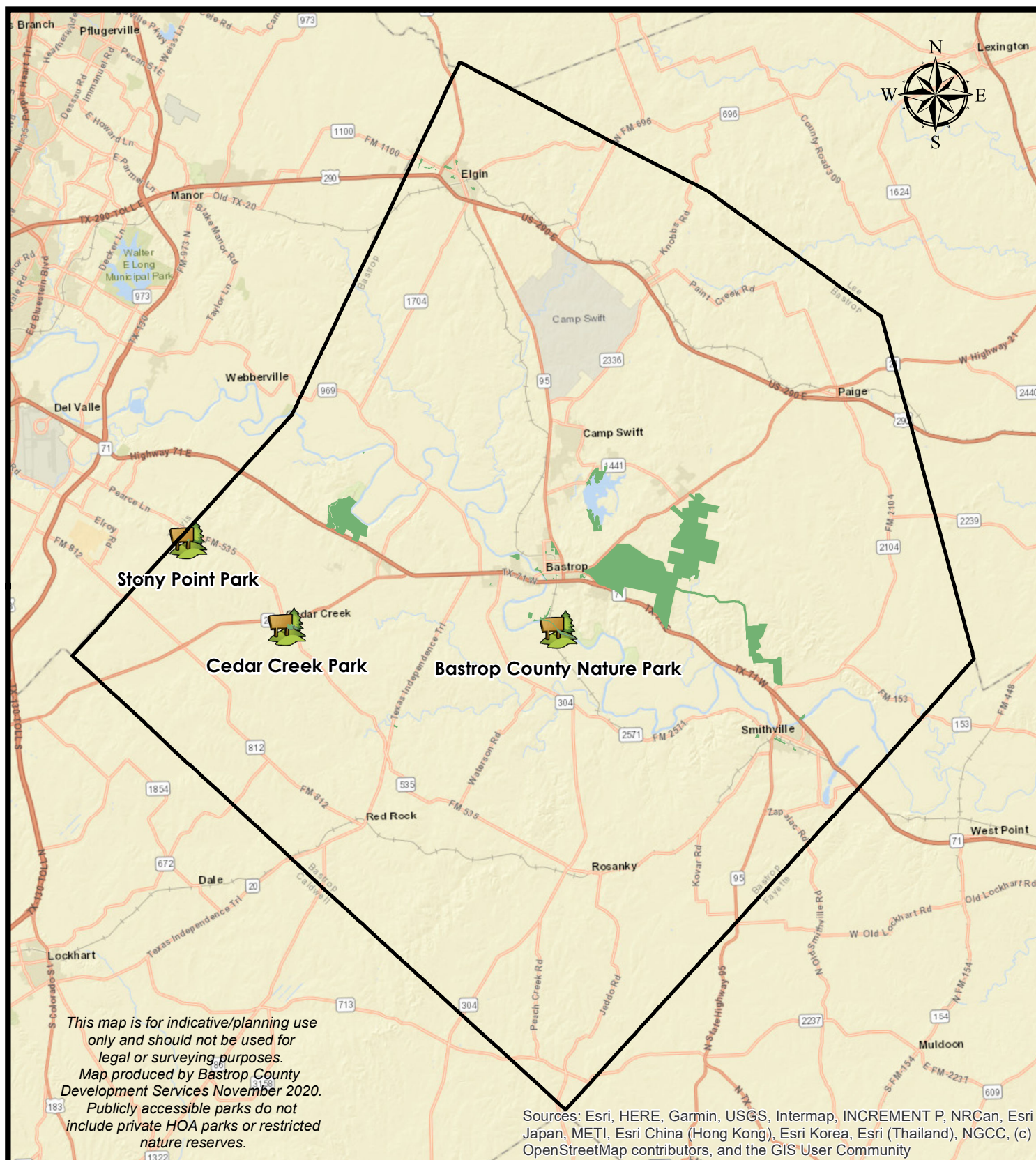
## *Note on GIS Map Data*

In 2018 and 2019, Bastrop County participated in the development of the Healthy Parks Plan for Travis, Bastrop and Caldwell Counties. The plan was funded by the St David's Foundation and led by the Trust for Public Land (TPL) with assistance from Asakura Robinson and TBG Partners. As part of this initiative, a GIS Based Decision Making Portal was produced in order to allow local decision makers to identify parkland development areas and projects based on their values and priorities. A number of the maps shown in this book have been created utilizing GIS data developed as part of that planning effort.



The Healthy Parks Plan Portal and documentation can be found here -  
<http://web.tplgis.org/healthyparksplan/>

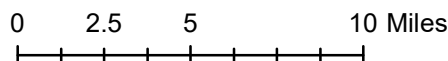


# Location of Bastrop County Parks



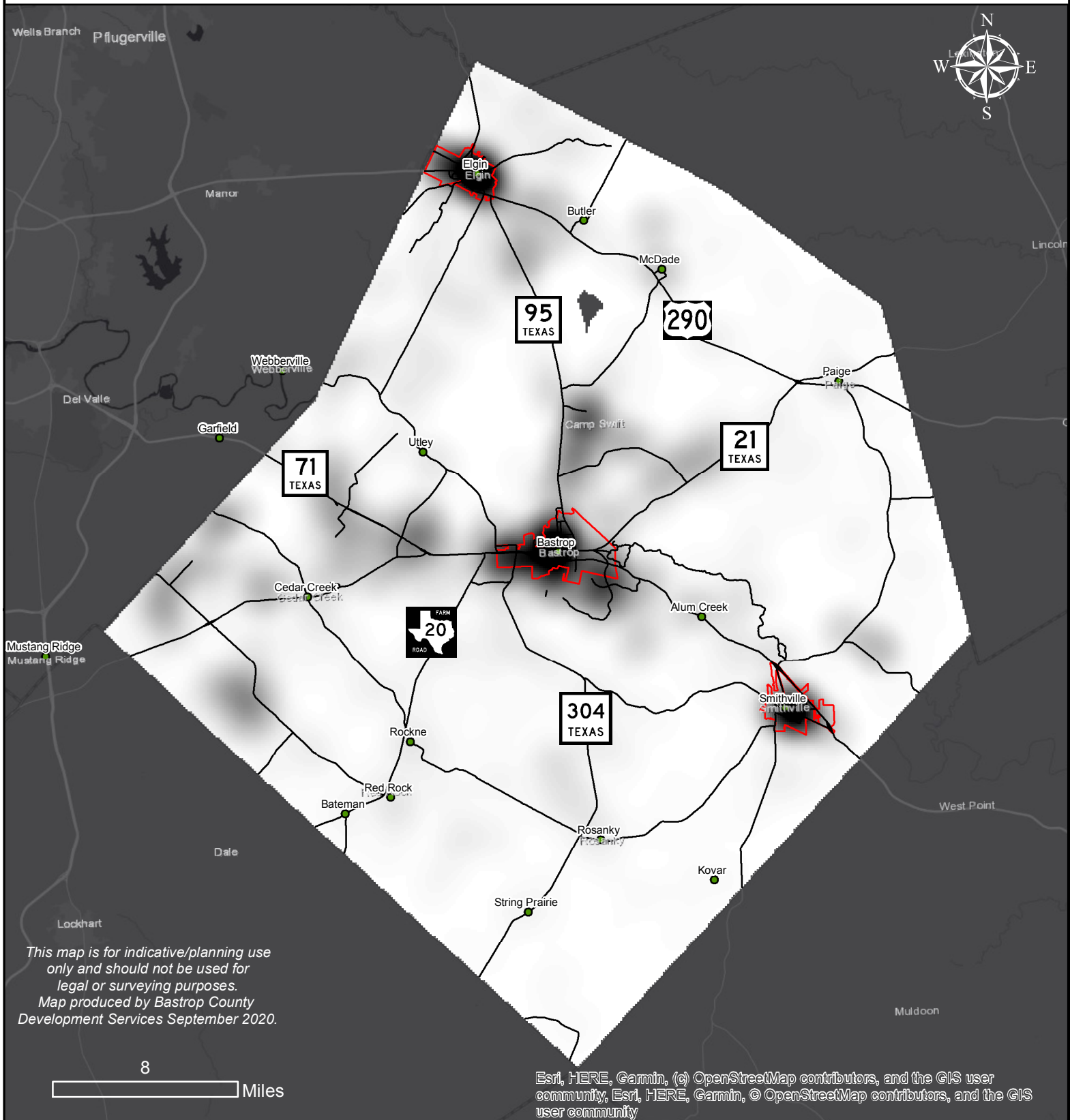
### Legend

-  Publicly Accessible Parks in Bastrop County
-  Bastrop County Parks (owned and managed by BC)



# Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

# Address Density in Bastrop County



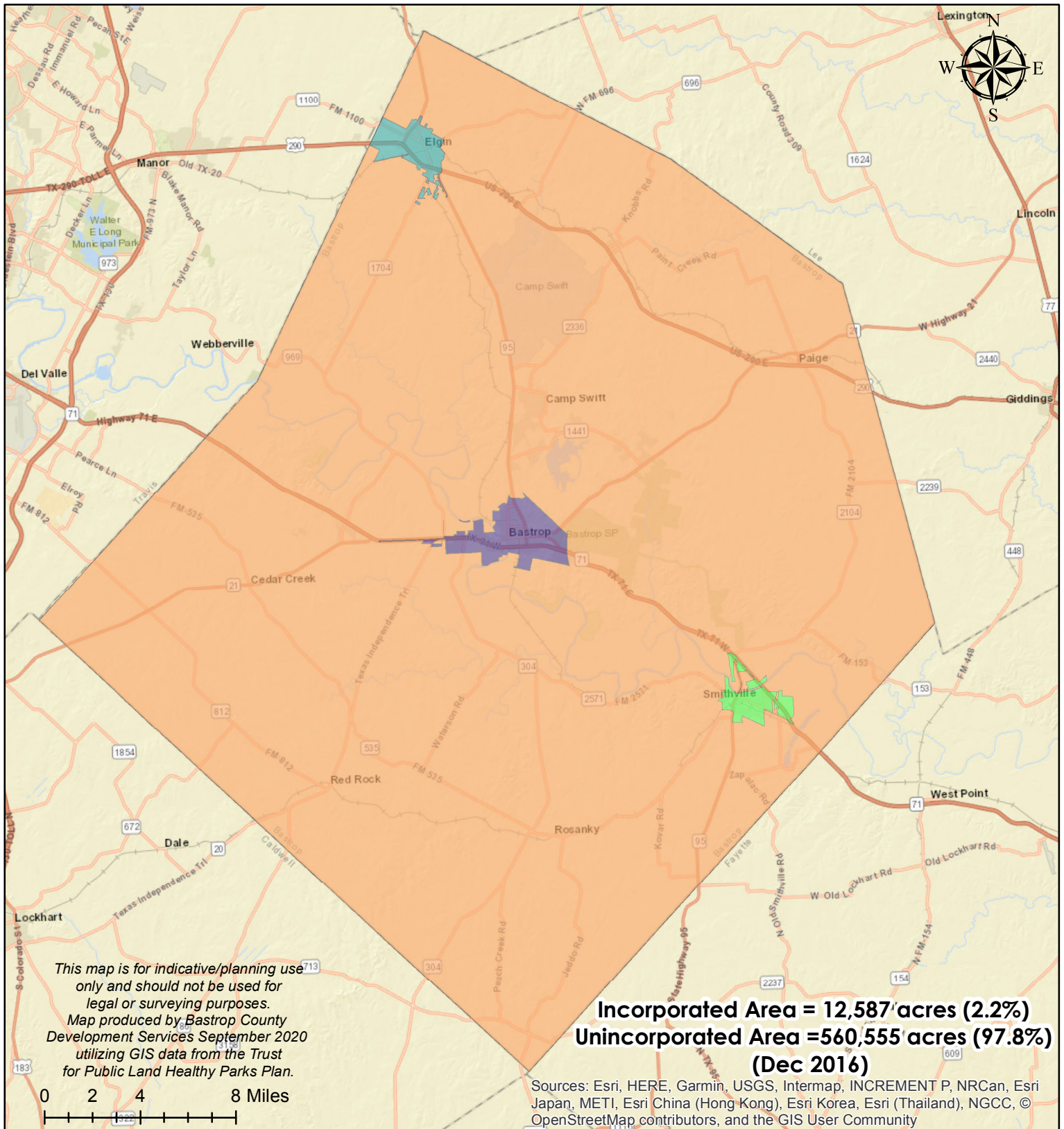
**Legend**  
**Address Density Sep 2020**  
**Value**  
 High : 2023.32  
 Low : 0  
 City Limits



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# "Incorporated" vs "Unincorporated" Bastrop County



## Jurisdiction

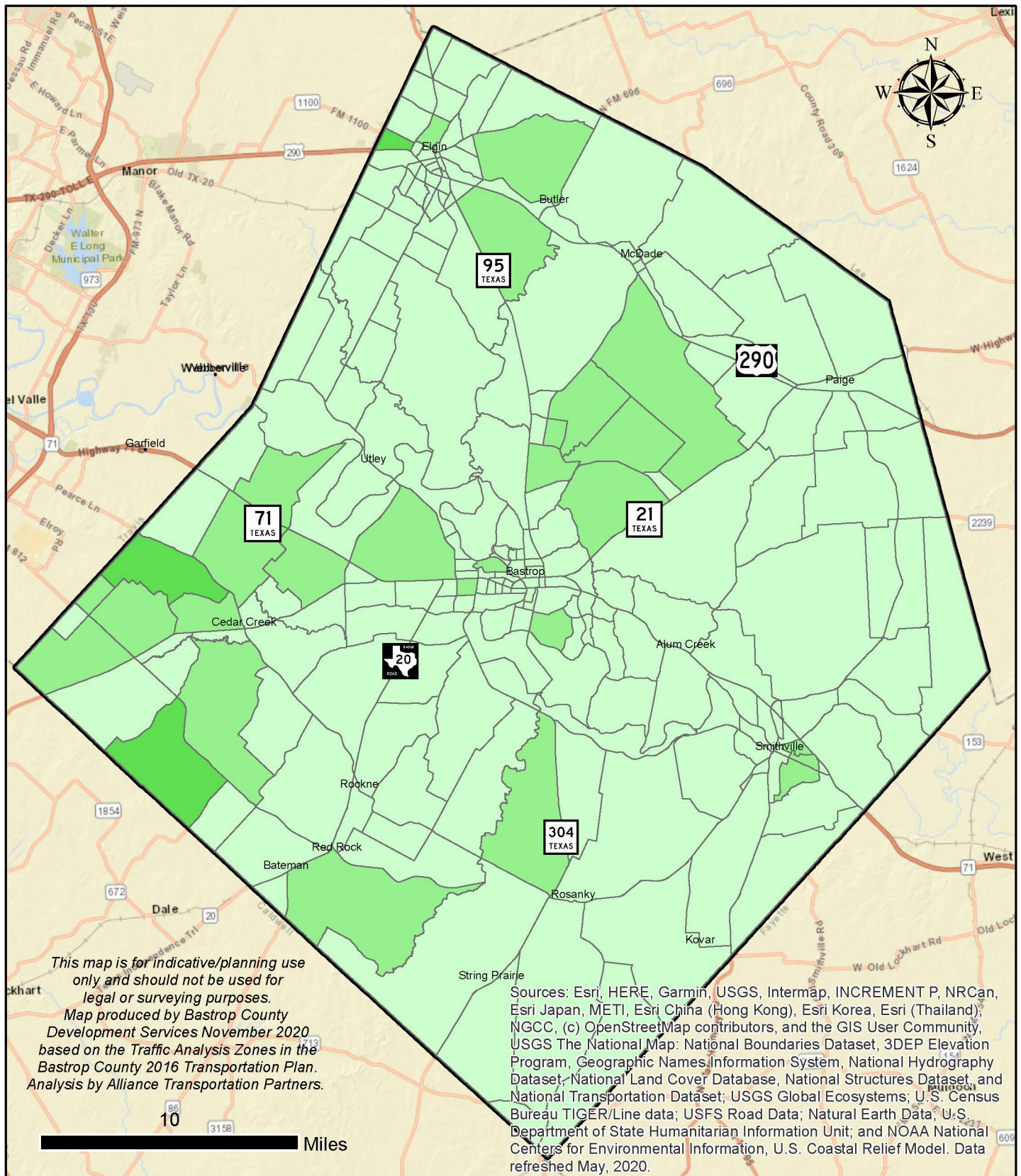
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<span style="display:inline-block; width:15px; height:15px; background-color:teal; border:1px solid black;"></span>	(INCORPORATED) CITY OF ELGIN
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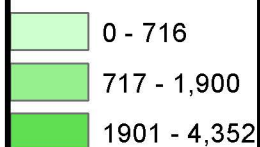
## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Bastrop County 2010 Population Distribution



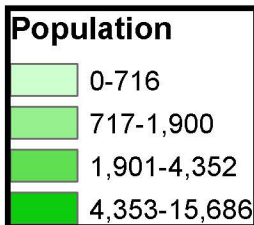
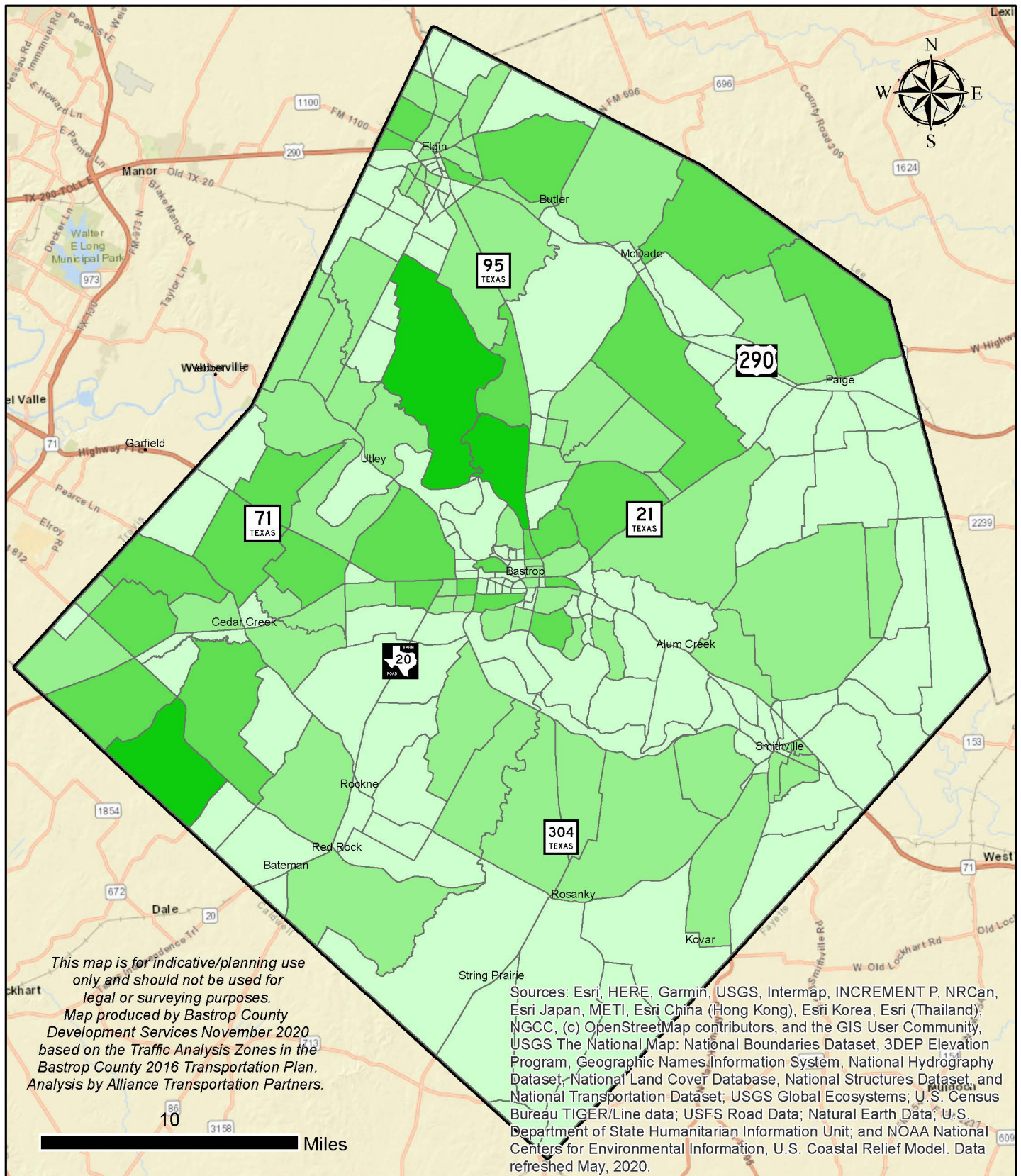
## Population



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



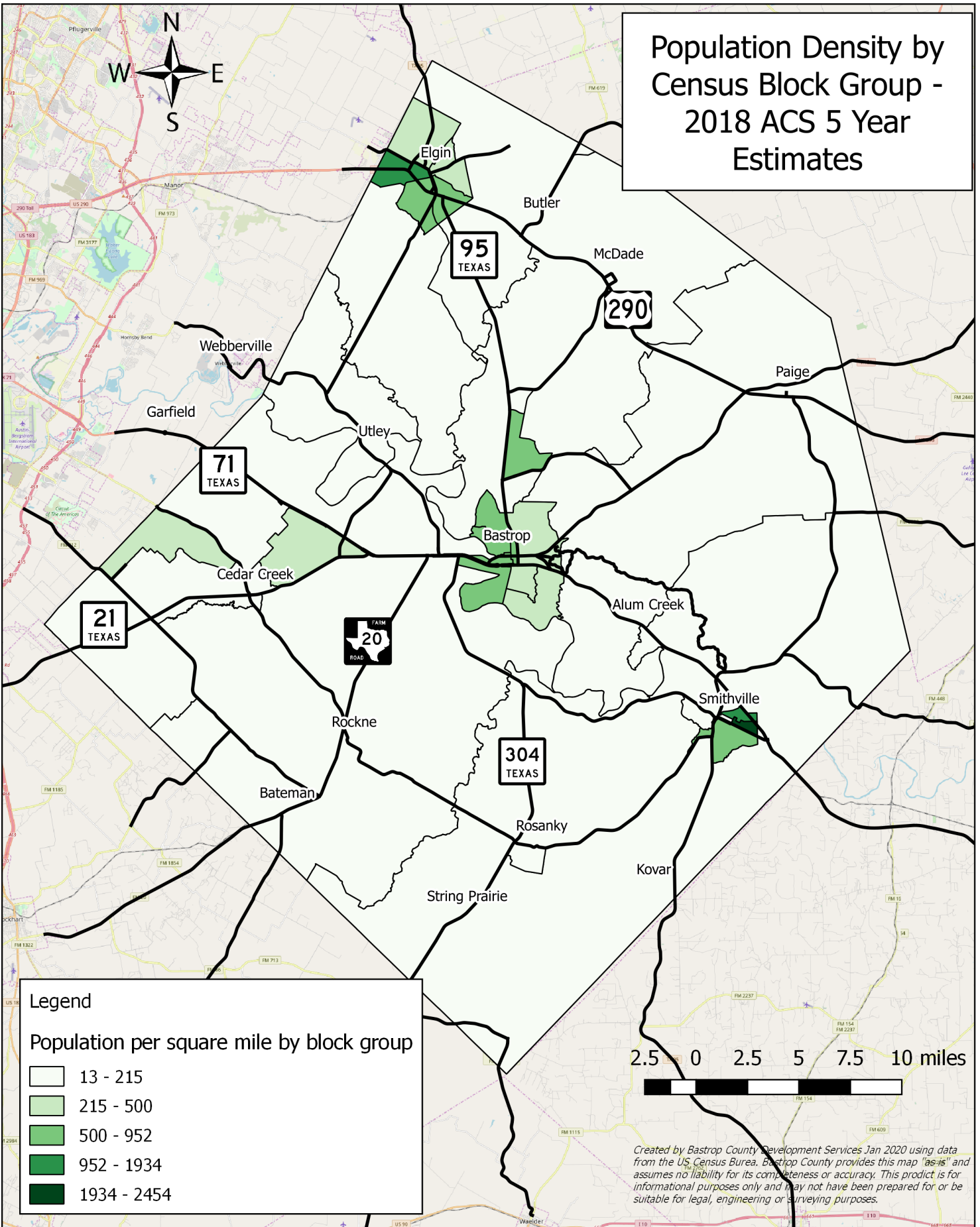
# Bastrop County 2040 Population Distribution

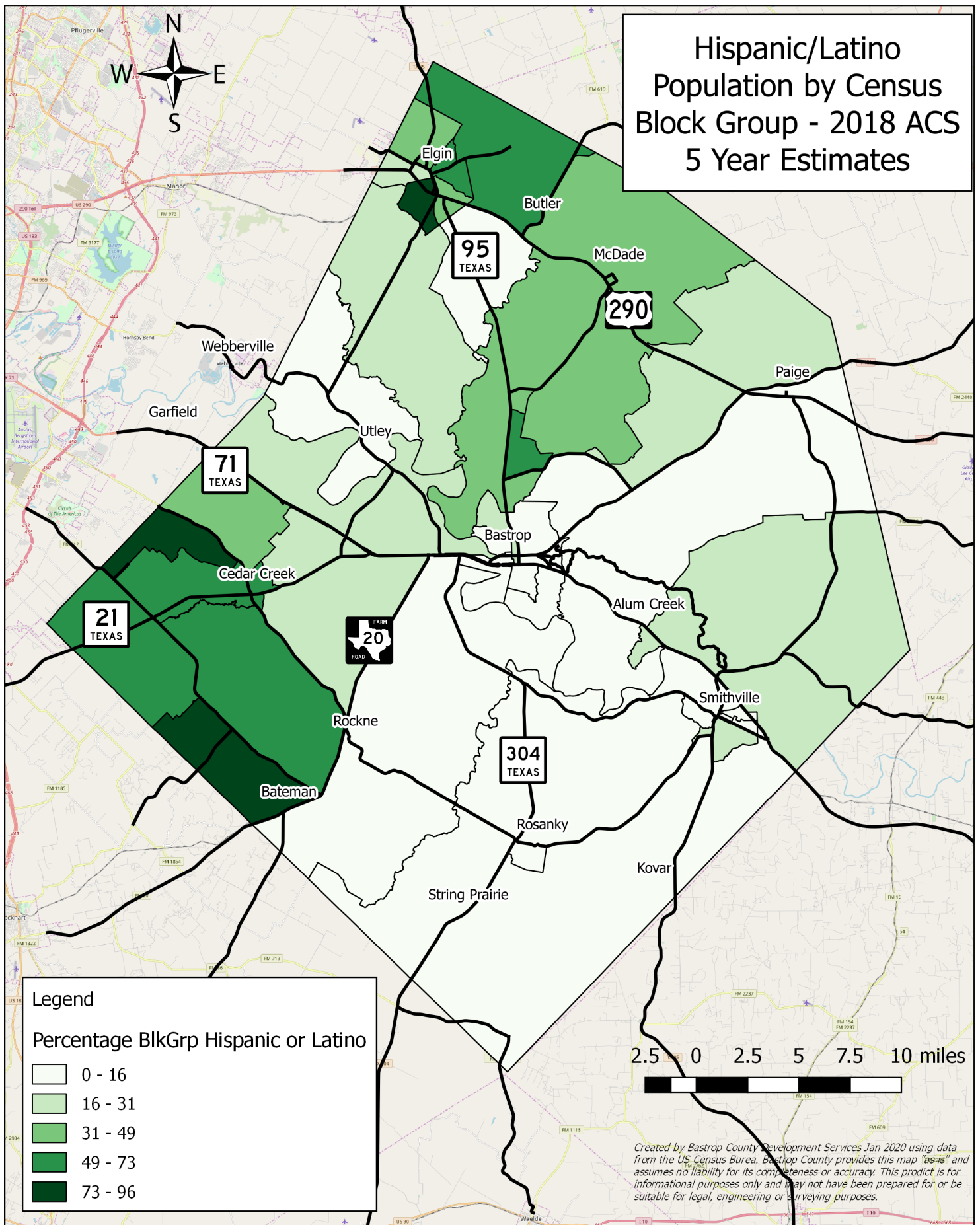


## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

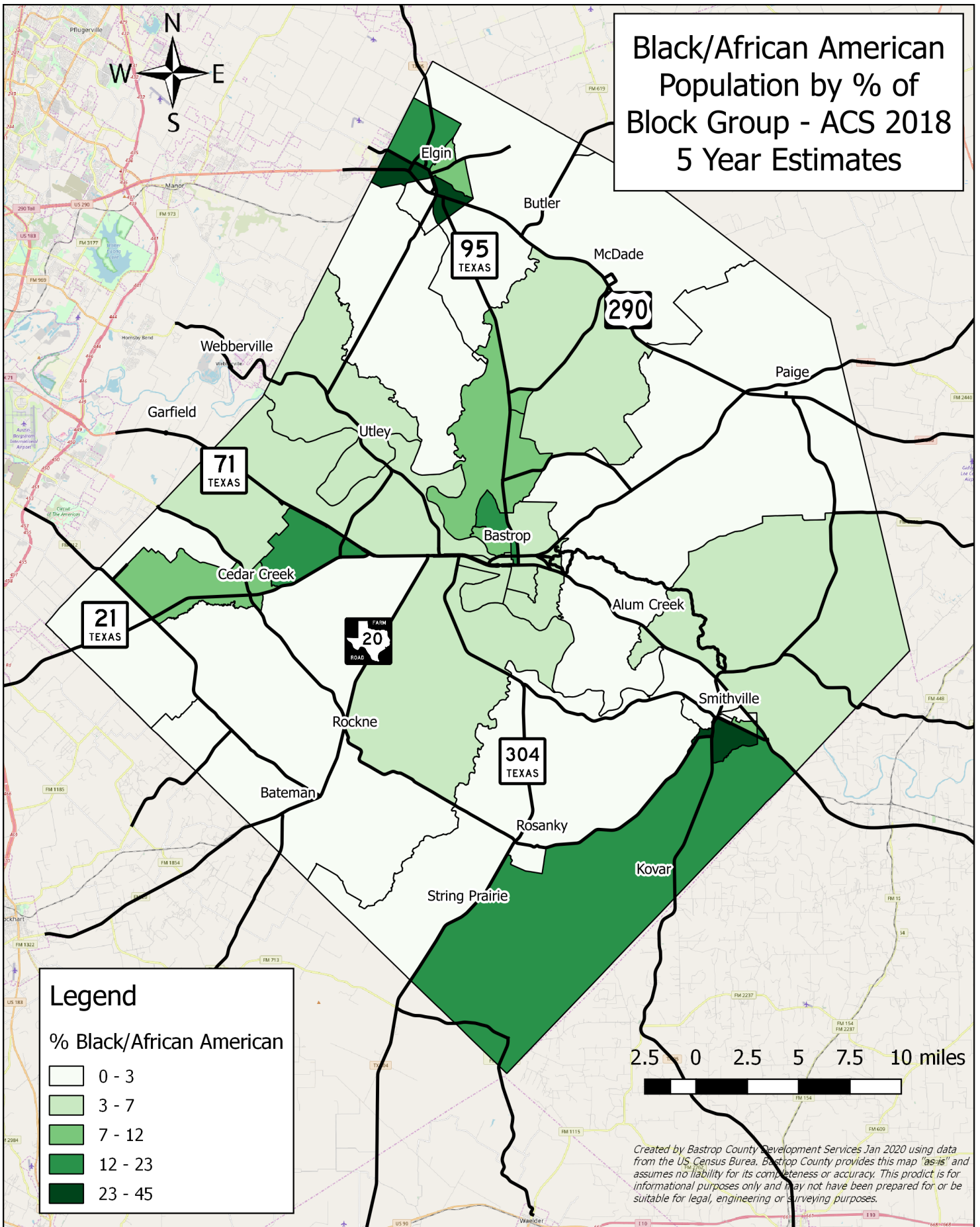


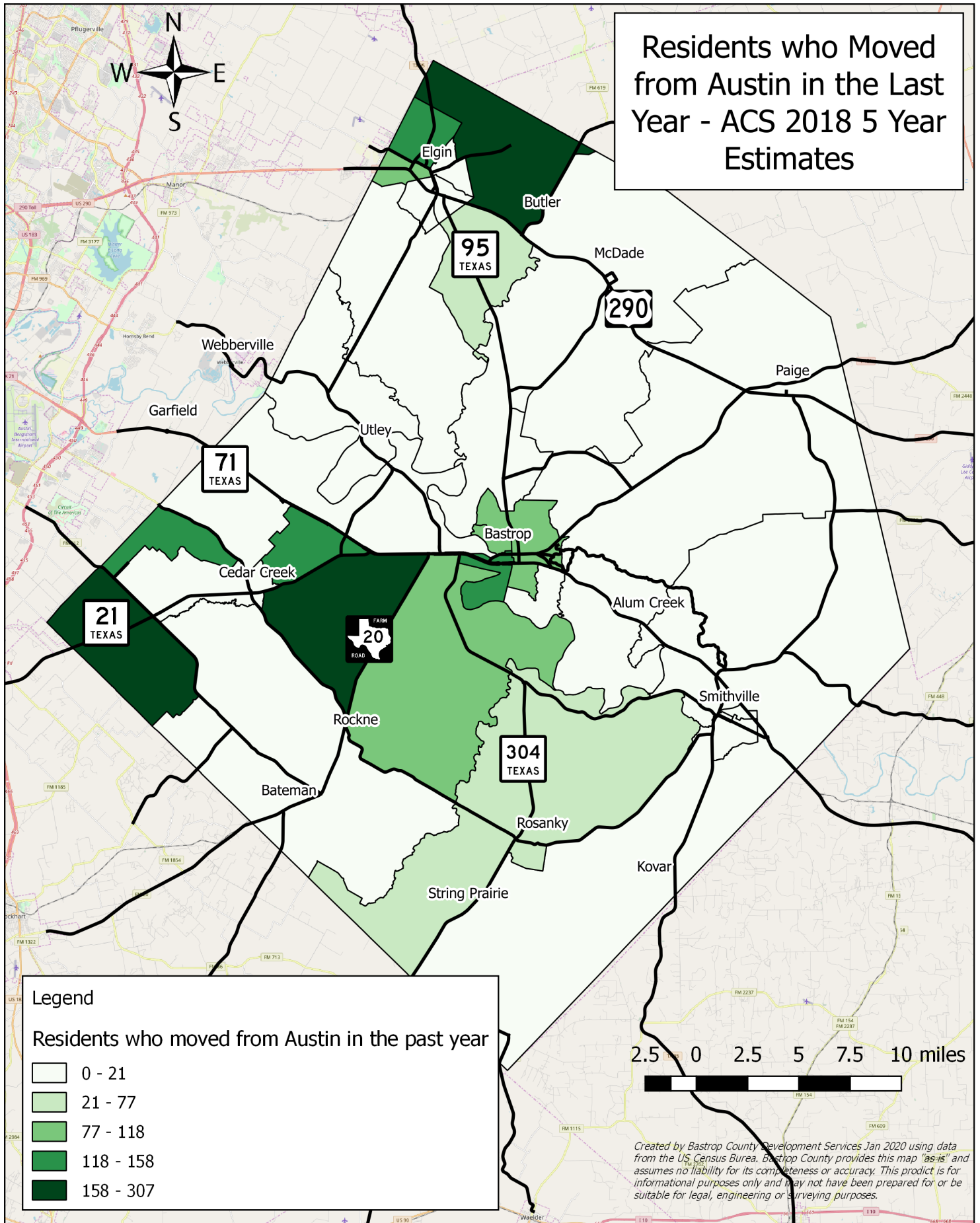






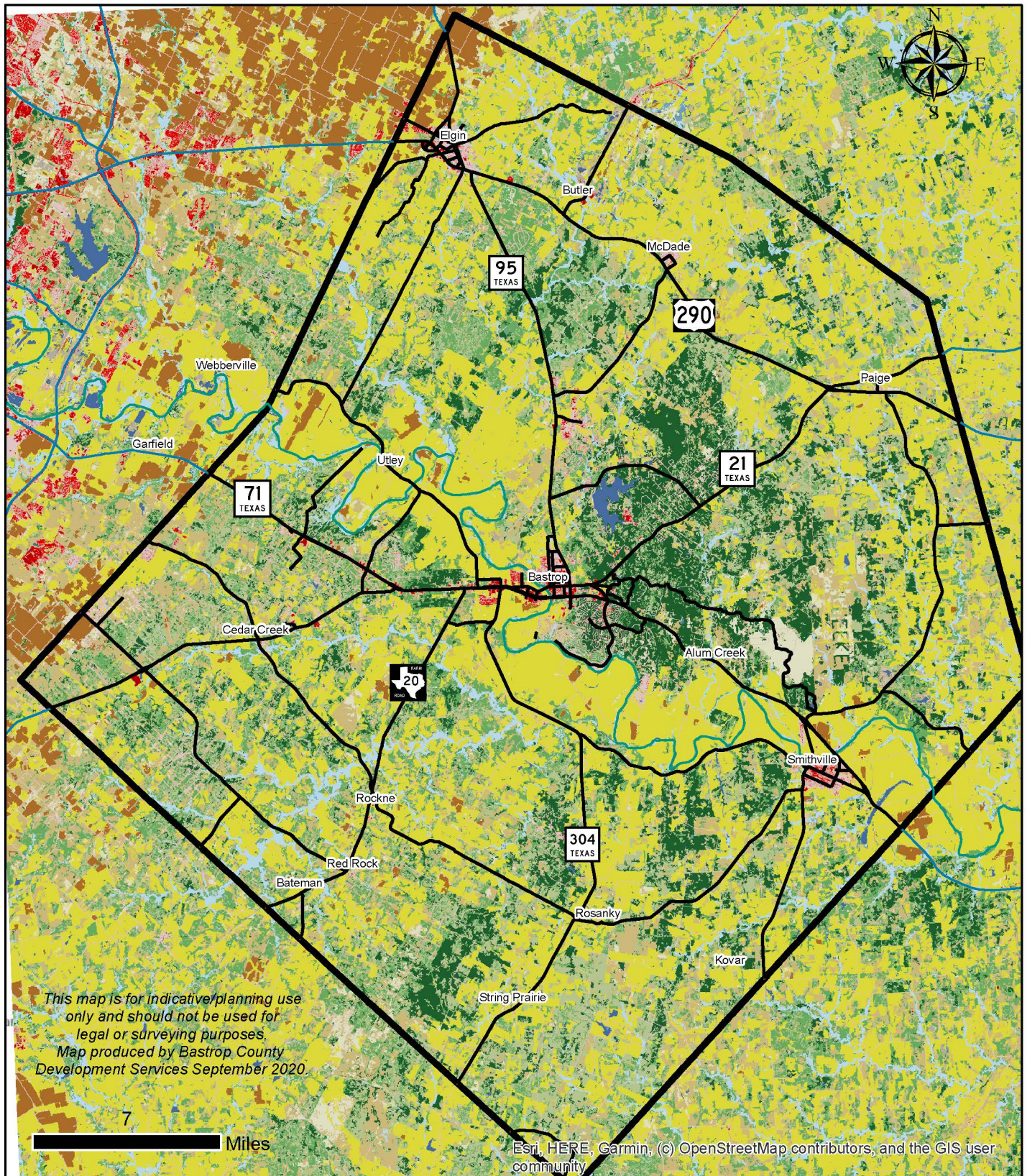








# Land Cover (National Land Cover Database 2016)



**Legend - National Land Cover Database Classification 2016**

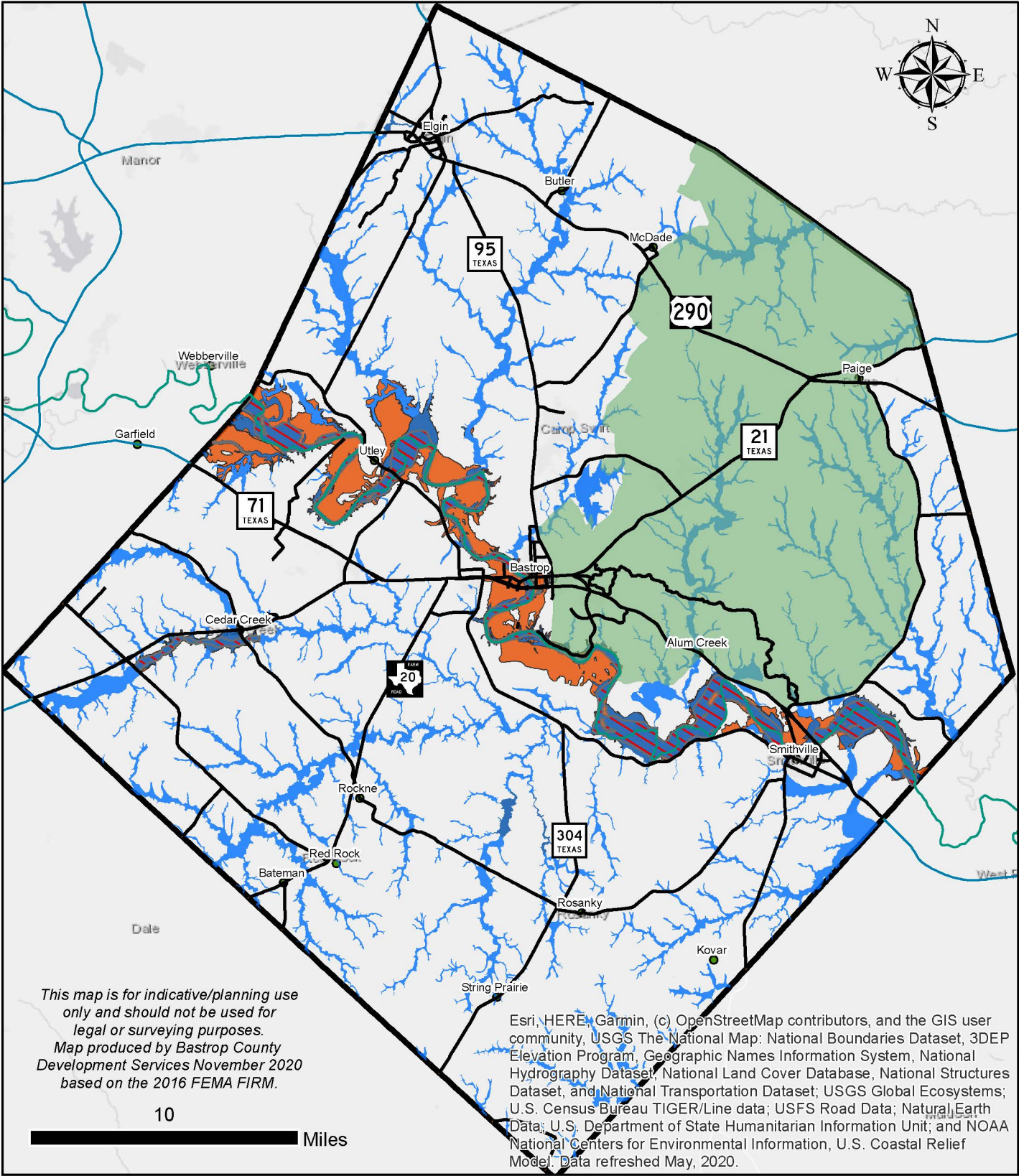
11 - Open Water	43 - Mixed Forest
21 - Developed, Open Space	52 - Shrub/Scrub
22 - Developed, Low Intensity	71 - Grassland/Herbaceous
23 - Developed, Medium Intensity	81 - Pasture/Hay
24 - Developed, High Intensity	82 - Cultivated Crops
31 - Barren Land (Rock/Sand/Clay)	90 - Woody Wetlands
41 - Deciduous Forest	95 - Emergent Herbaceous Wetlands
42 - Evergreen Forest	



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Bastrop County Environmental Constraints



**Legend**

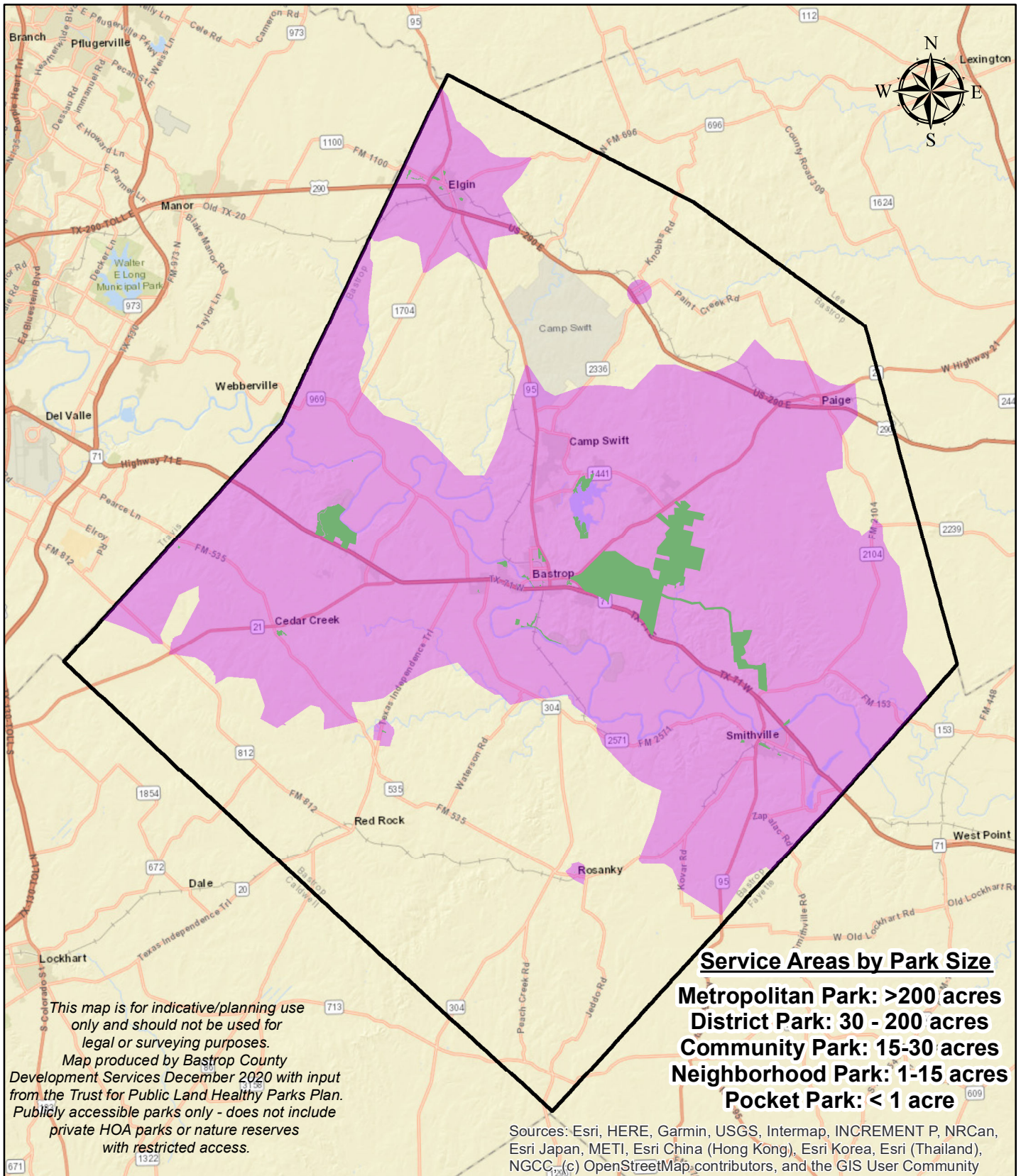
- LPHCP Area (Houston Toad)
- Floodway
- Special Flood Hazard Area**
- 0.2% Annual Flood Chance Hazard
- 1% Annual Flood Chance Hazard (Zone A)
- 1% Annual Flood Chance Hazard (Zone AE)



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Bastrop County Land within Service Area of Any Park



## Legend

- Publicly Accessible Parks in Bastrop County
- Land in Service Area of Any Park

0 2.5 5 10 Miles



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

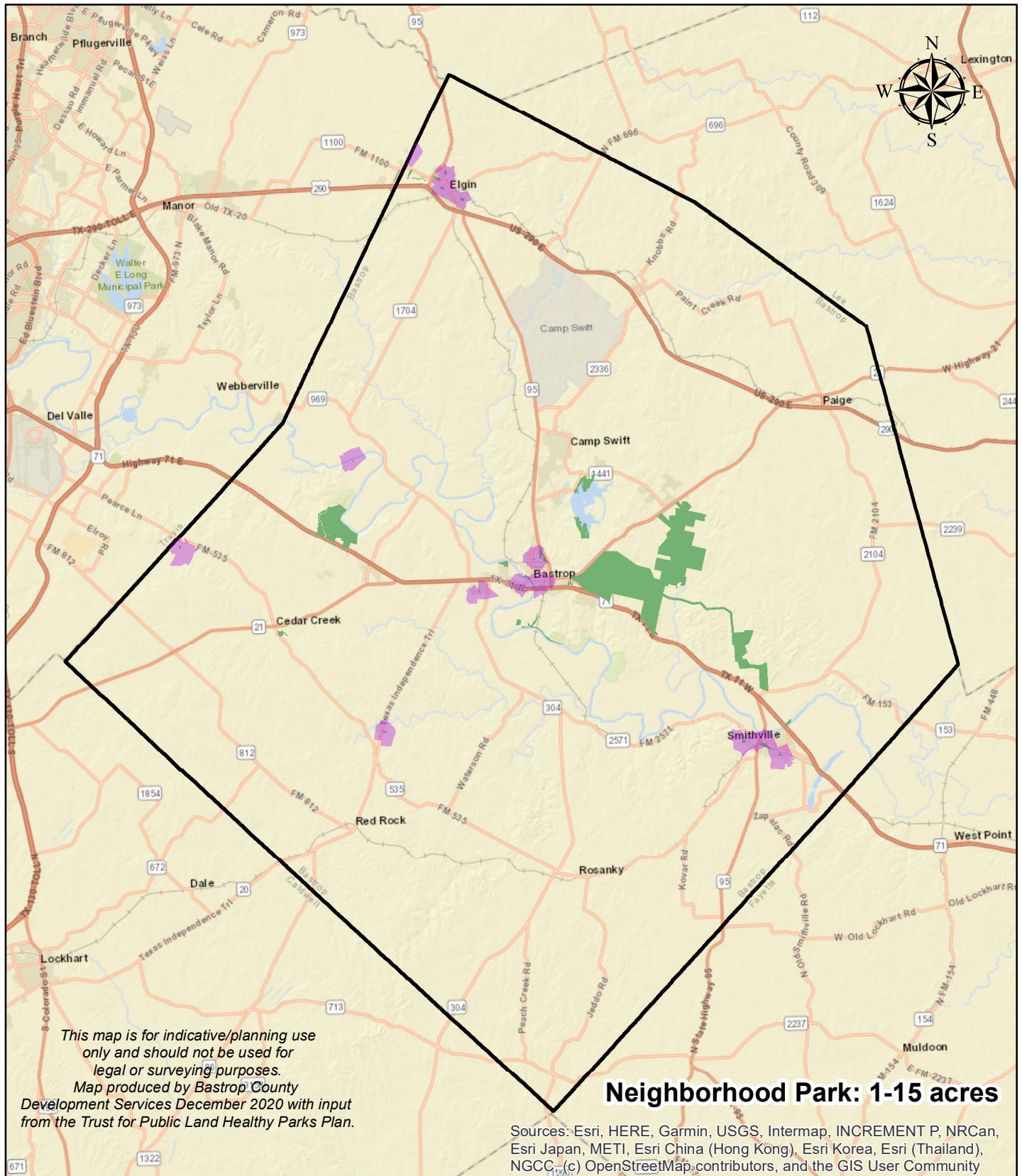




# Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Bastrop County Land within 0.5 Miles of a Neighborhood Park



## Legend

- Within 0.5 Miles of Neighborhood Park
- Publicly Accessible Parks in Bastrop County

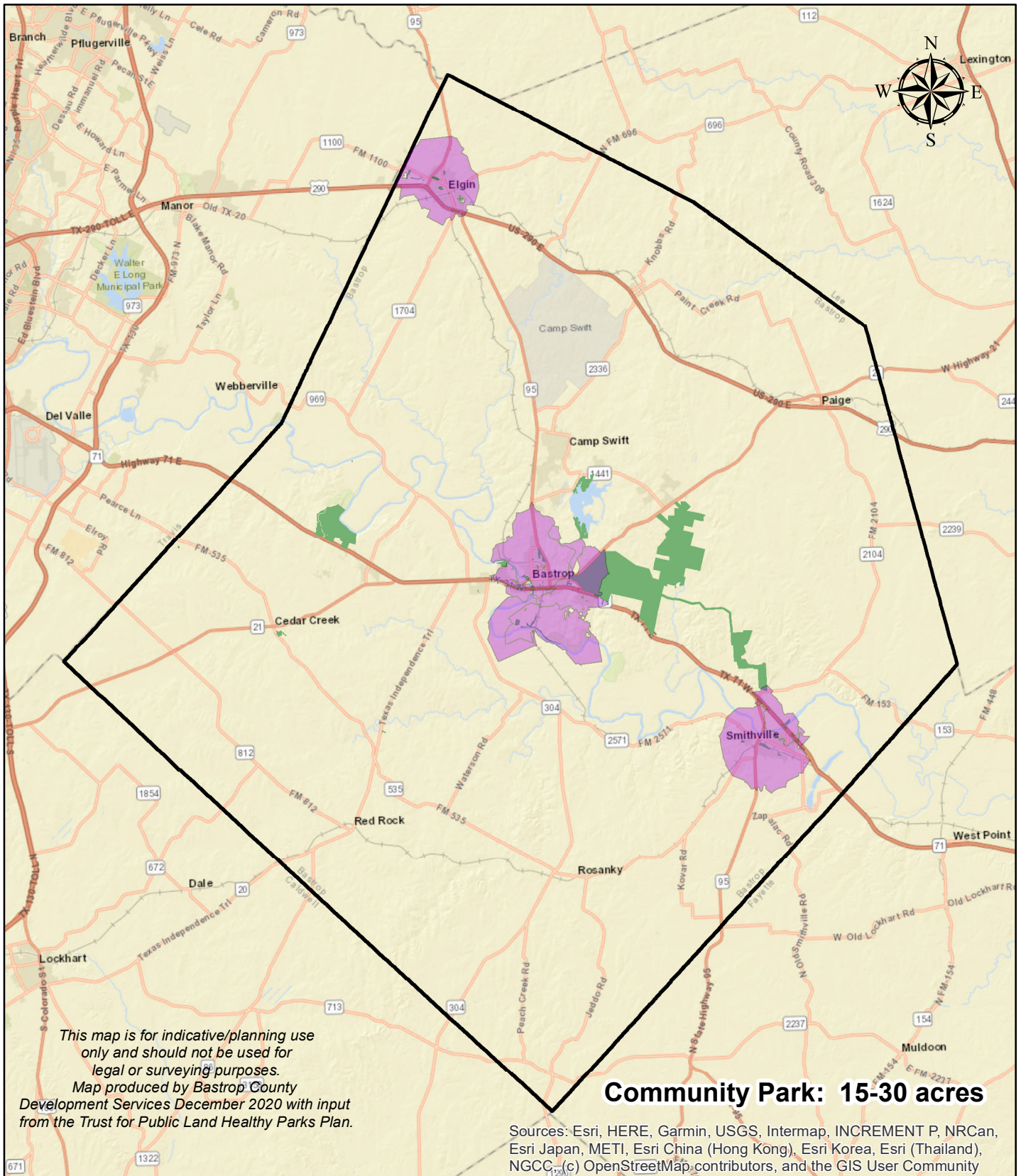
0 2.5 5 10 Miles



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Bastrop County Land within 2 Miles of a Community Park



## Legend

- Publicly Accessible Parks in Bastrop County
- Within 2 Miles of a Community Park

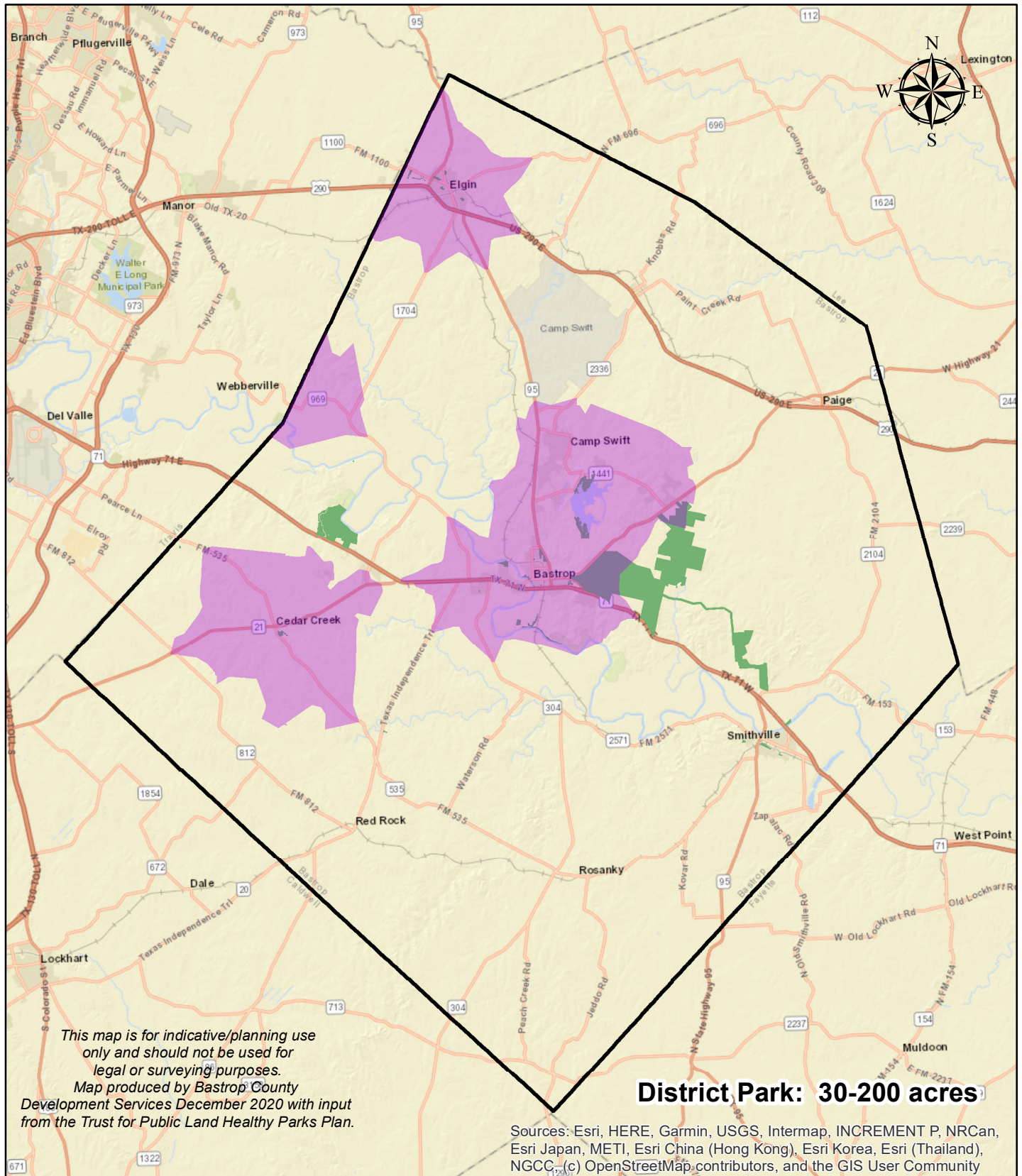
0 2.5 5 10 Miles



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Bastrop County Land within 5 Miles of a District Park



## Legend

- Publicly Accessible Parks in Bastrop County
- Within 5 Miles of a District Park

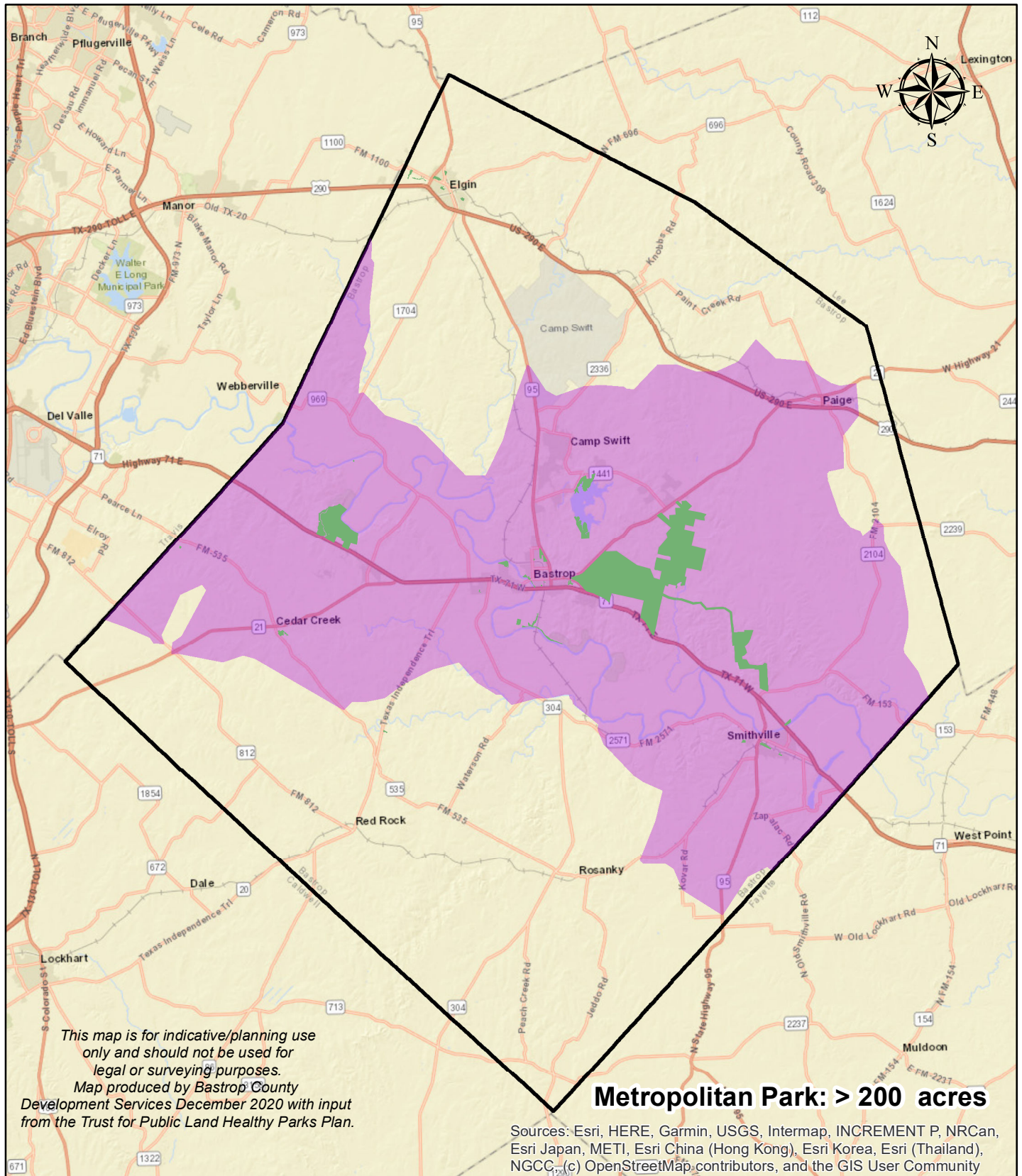
0 2.5 5 10 Miles



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Bastrop County Land within 10 Miles of a Metropolitan Park



## Legend

- Publicly Accessible Parks in Bastrop County
- Within 10 Miles of Metropolitan Park

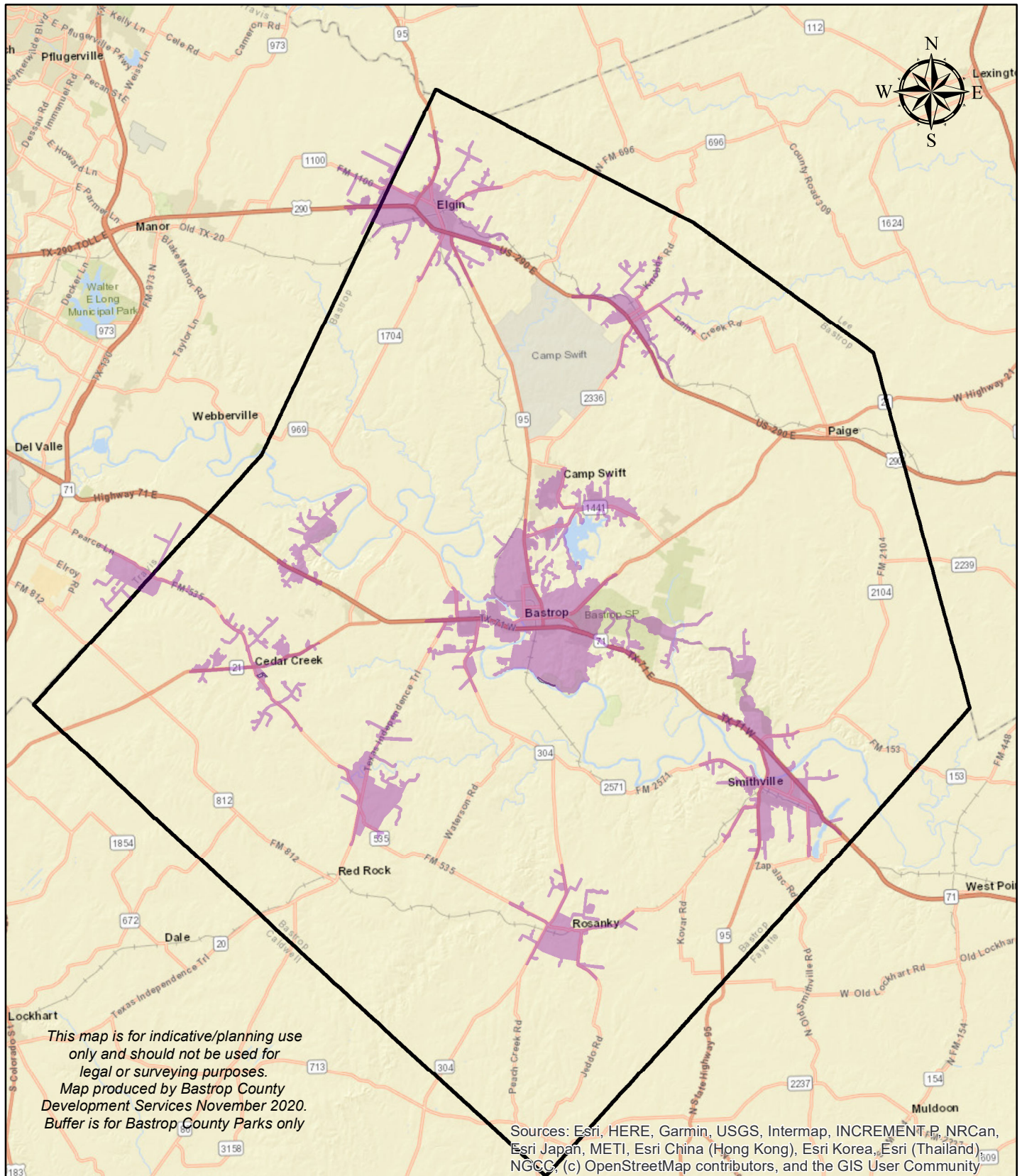
0 2.5 5 10 Miles



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Parks in Bastrop County - 3 Mile Driving Distance



## Legend

3 Miles from Park

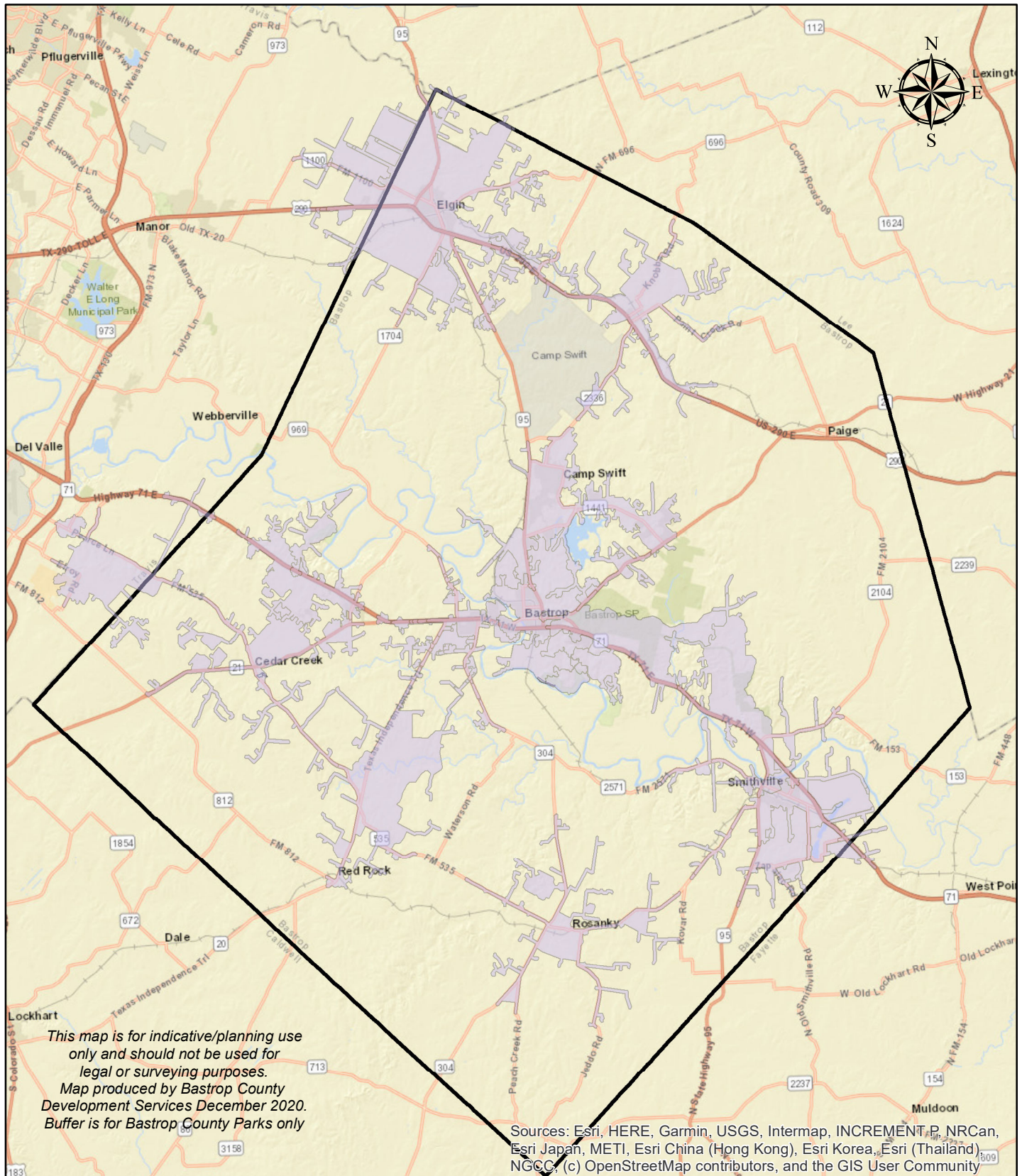
0 2.5 5 10 Miles



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Parks in Bastrop County - 5 Mile Driving Distance



## Legend

5 Miles from Park

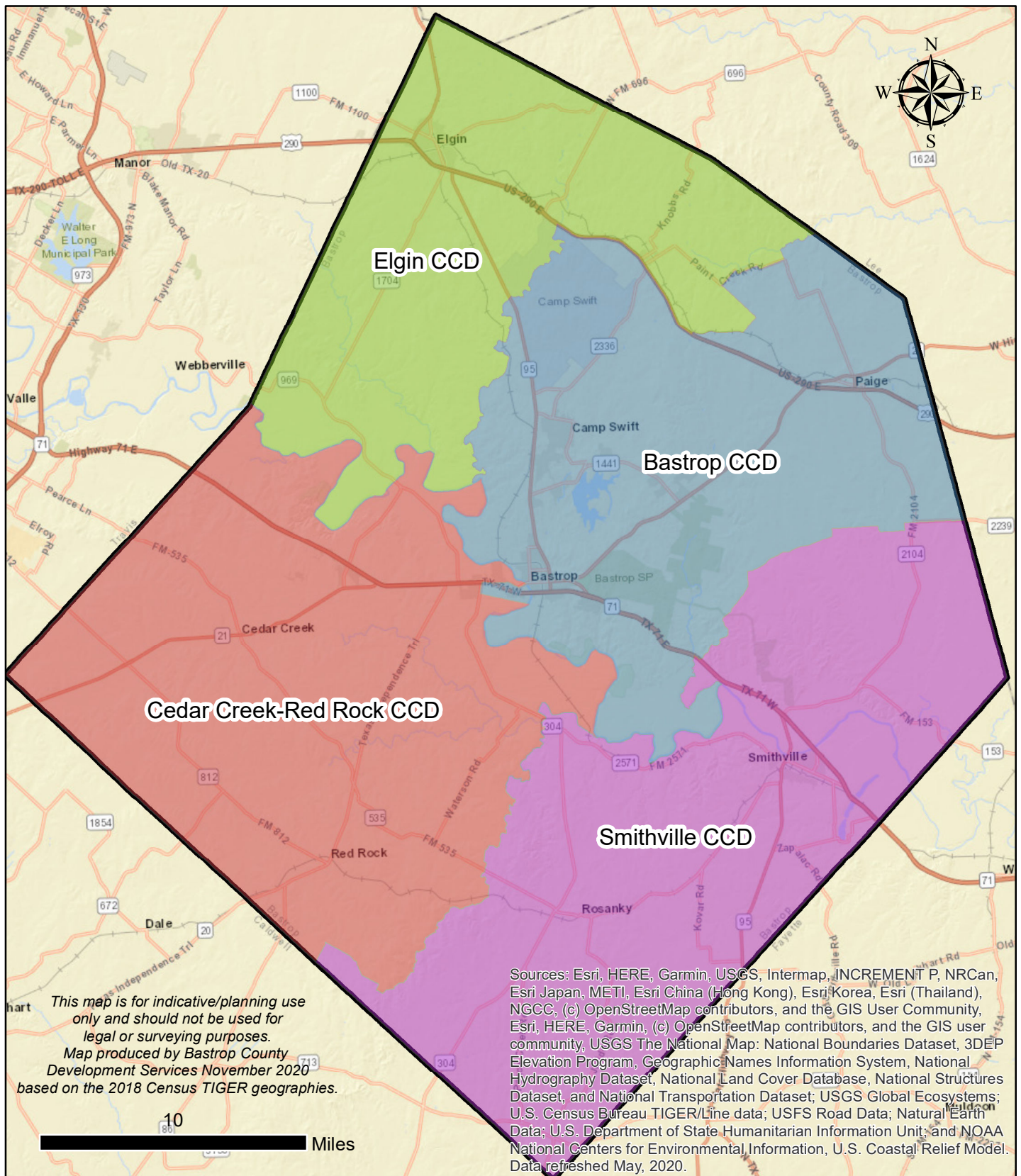
0 2.5 5 10 Miles



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan



# Census County Divisions/ Planning Areas



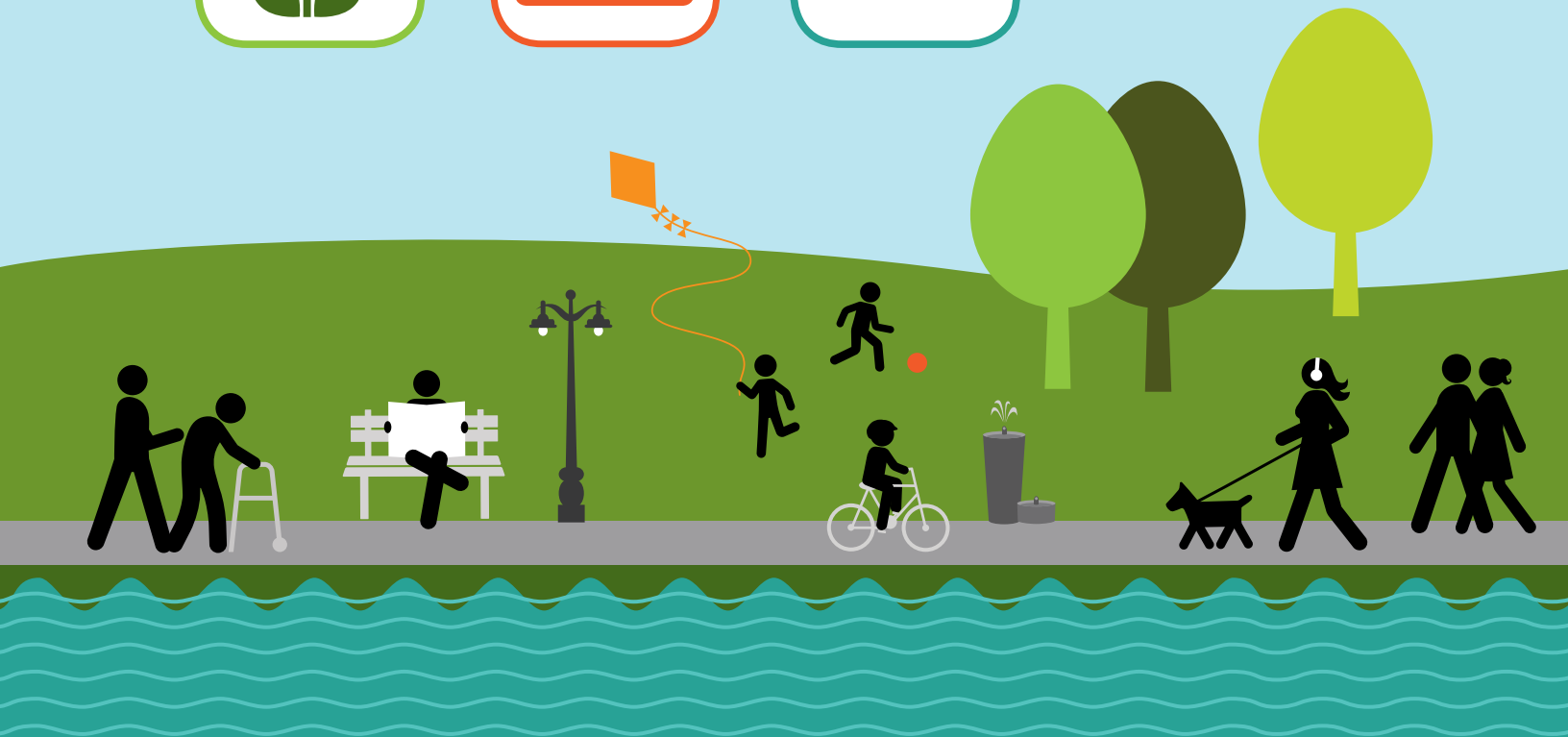
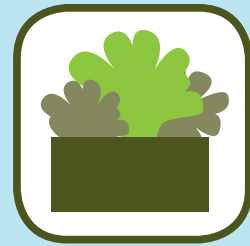
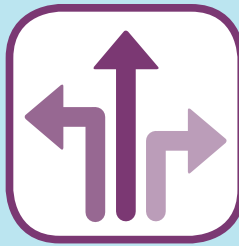
Legend	
Census County Division	
<span style="color: blue;">■</span>	Bastrop CCD
<span style="color: red;">■</span>	Cedar Creek-Red Rock CCD
<span style="color: green;">■</span>	Elgin CCD
<span style="color: purple;">■</span>	Smithville CCD



## Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

# Complete Parks Indicators

A Systems Approach to Assessing Parks



ChangeLab Solutions



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# Introduction

Most people with a neighborhood park can name what they do or do not like about it, but they might not be able to say much about other parks in the city, county, or area where they live. Within any jurisdiction, parks can vary greatly. Affluent neighborhoods typically have higher-quality parks that are well maintained and better funded, compared to low-income areas that often have greater needs and fewer resources.<sup>1</sup> Complete Parks is a way of thinking about a parks system as a comprehensive whole – its strengths, issues, and inequities – and takes into account communities' needs in relation to parks or the lack of parks, the context of various neighborhoods, and other interconnected systems and institutions.

Assessing a parks system is one of the first steps in creating a Complete Parks system. By using the best available data on local priorities, assets, and context, a city, county, or town can make decisions based on a deeper understanding of what is actually happening in communities, rather than relying on assumptions or guesswork. Assessing a parks system helps identify priorities, inform a strategic planning process, and reveal patterns of inequities that should be addressed and remedied.

*Complete Parks Indicators* presents indicators and sample metrics for assessing a parks system. Specifically, it examines the 7 Complete Parks elements: Engage, Connect, Locate, Activate, Grow, Protect, and Fund. When addressed together, these 7 elements result in a Complete Parks system that

- Provides all residents with easy access to a great park that fulfills each community's needs for nature, open space, and recreational activities, recognizing that there is no one-size-fits-all solution;
- Closes the gaps in parks access and quality by improving parks in neglected places and increasing park area for groups with the least access and the greatest need; and
- Supports health and health equity by incorporating holistic health into how parks are distributed, operated, and used by people and communities. Complete Parks helps create the conditions for all people to attain their full health potential by considering how the Complete Parks elements can improve or undermine health.

Developed for local government staff, this document introduces the 7 Complete Parks elements, presents indicators and sample metrics for each element, and provides guidance for multi-disciplinary groups on how to collect the data.

# Getting Started

Successful implementation of a Complete Parks system relies on many government agencies and community-based groups working well together in many areas, including collecting, sharing, and analyzing data. Decisions about assessing parks, from selecting indicators to adapting metrics, should be made by a local group made up of residents who represent the various communities in a city, county, or area, as well as people from many local government agencies and departments. Including communities and a range of local agencies and departments in this decision-making and parks assessment process makes sense because it

- Can make achieving communities' vision for Complete Parks more likely. When conversations with community members inform decisions, civic projects can be more responsive to that community's needs, priorities, and preferences, and are more likely to be effective and succeed.<sup>2</sup>
- Increases capacity to conduct a meaningful assessment. Working with data can require a range of skills, resources, and supports. Spreading this responsibility across many groups and sectors makes it more likely that the assessment will include the most pertinent metrics, rather than fallback metrics that the group is able to collect easily but that may be less relevant.
- Takes full advantage of existing data across systems and minimizes redundant work. The Complete Parks elements span the purview of many agencies, departments, and community-based or non-profit organizations. By bringing together various representatives, the group can access the data that each member collects or knows about and coordinate their efforts to gather data most efficiently and make use of the group's collective strengths.
- Helps ensure that the right mix of indicators and metrics are selected. Each setting is unique, and some metrics may resonate more or less for different stakeholders. Local groups should select at least 1 metric for each element – a minimum of 7 – and as many as appropriate for the city, county, or town. Considering the priorities of many groups and interests helps ensure that the assessment captures information that is meaningful to communities, especially those whose perspectives aren't usually shared or considered as part of government decision-making.
- Engages early on the many sectors, agencies and organizations needed to create a Complete Parks system. The assessment should inform the mix of strategies a city, county, or town chooses to align its parks system with the Complete Parks approach. Involving these people and groups from the assessment phase onward is likely to increase their commitment when they are responsible for implementing strategies.

Review the *Complete Parks Model Resolution* for ideas on individuals and groups to engage in assessing a parks system.



# Measuring the 7 Elements

## ENGAGE: Inclusive, Meaningful, Ongoing Dialogue

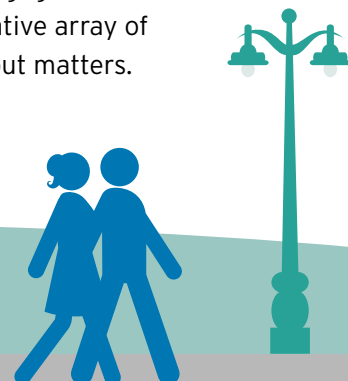


Active participation in community life, such as voting and weighing in on policies that affect the neighborhood, is often good for people's health. In one study, people with low political engagement reported poorer health,<sup>3</sup> and adults who volunteer report better physical health and well-being compared to those who don't.<sup>4</sup> Civic engagement can boost social connection and is linked to greater self-esteem and healthy relationships.<sup>5</sup>

Just as government serves the people, parks should support the vision of the people who live near it. Engagement done well can yield long-lasting, more equitable solutions that increase civic pride, and has the potential to create special places that affirm a shared identity and sense of belonging. When a park advances a group's vision for itself, it becomes a central feature of a thriving community and serves as a daily reminder of collective will.

Parks help a community fulfill its vision when people in local government who are responsible for designing, creating, and maintaining parks actively listen to residents and involve them in key decisions, learn something from these conversations, and make different decisions based on community input. When people across local government agencies engage residents in this way in order to develop responsive policies, practices, and projects, outcomes can improve across the board, from high satisfaction with services to increased park use<sup>6</sup> and better public health.

**How to Measure:** Given the importance of community input to shaping successful parks, the indicators for the Engage element focus on residents' willingness to participate in local government's engagement activities; local government's intention to engage communities; and the effectiveness of local government's engagement efforts. Local governments that make it a priority to engage communities are more likely to be effective at reaching a representative array of residents and boosting participation by demonstrating that their input matters.



## CONNECT: Safe Routes to Parks



People are more likely to visit parks when they feel safe getting there.<sup>7</sup> A neighborhood park can be enjoyed only if everyone can easily and safely get there, whether by walking, rolling, biking, taking public transit, or driving a car. People often think of parks as places for physical activity and exercise, but the health benefits could be even greater if people could safely walk, run, or bike on their way to the park and not just after they arrive.

Parks are as much a part of neighborhoods as local schools, housing, and businesses, and creating safe routes to parks can improve the transportation system throughout a city or county.<sup>8</sup> The same routes that people take to parks are used to reach other destinations. Establishing safe, convenient access to parks can also make it easier for people to get to work, run errands, coordinate pick-ups from school or child care, or meet up with friends.

**How to Measure:** Assessment of the Connect element focuses on accessibility of parks and safe routes to and through parks, regardless of the users' needs or mode of transit. The trails and paths within parks should be integrated into the local transportation network so parks serve as through-routes, not only destinations. Especially in areas without transit infrastructure, proximity to other key destinations and amenities are an important way to measure connectivity and parks access.

## LOCATE: Equitable Distribution of Complete Parks



People who live within walking distance of a park are more likely to use parks and have higher physical activity levels than residents who live farther away.<sup>9</sup> The location of a park determines who can access open space and recreation, how the park can be used, and whether it can be integrated into the neighborhood or function as a community hub.

This element also aims to increase park land and recreation spaces in areas that have far fewer parks than other parts of a city or county. This is important because inequitable access to parks is yet another way that people's physical environment can contribute to disease, injury, risk behaviors, and mortality.<sup>10</sup>

**How to Measure:** The distance people travel to parks is part of assessing the Locate element. Locate indicators also include the amount of park land in a neighborhood and the potential for increasing parkland and recreation spaces. Creative strategies can increase the available venues for exercise, leisure activities, and social interaction, and such strategies are essential in developed areas where open space is limited.

## ACTIVATE: Community-Led Park Activities and Programs



A well designed park can improve health by providing spaces for exercise<sup>11</sup> and quiet reflection and relaxation,<sup>12</sup> as well as by facilitating connections among friends, family, neighbors, and other social networks that can provide emotional support.<sup>13,14</sup> Not every park will or should have every possible amenity, but parks should serve many purposes and provide a variety of features that respond to residents' priorities. By accommodating multiple uses, parks can welcome many users and maximize their benefits to communities. Parks can increase property values, attract businesses and in-demand workers, and make a region more appealing,<sup>15</sup> and 85% of Americans say having high-quality parks, playgrounds and open space is important when choosing where to live.<sup>16</sup>

Park users and the broader community may have multiple needs and different priorities depending on time of day, the season, their age or phase of life, and over time. A park that is overly prescriptive quickly becomes obsolete because it cannot reflect the community's changing needs and desires for using park space. To accommodate a wide range of potential users and uses in an ongoing way, parks should have flexible spaces for ad hoc community purposes, in addition to formal programs and fixed features such as play structures or gardens.

**How to Measure:** Assessing the Activate element gauges people's satisfaction with local park uses and with their participation in park activities. Because people and communities are dynamic and always changing, Activate indicators also examine whether parks can adapt so they're responsive to community needs and desires for the long haul. Rather than espousing cumbersome rules, procedures, or fees that may create barriers or exclude people from using parks, a Complete Parks system encourages people and organizations to use and repurpose their parks so they can easily make the most of parks for generations.





## GROW: Parks Maintenance and Ecology



Healthy people need healthy places to live, including clean air, water and soil. Because humans are part of the ecosystem, what's good for the environment is usually also good for people.<sup>17</sup> A Complete Parks system manages parks in a way that is good for the environment and makes parks attractive for long-term use by all kinds of people. Parks improve air quality,<sup>18</sup> provide shade and cool cities prone to extreme heat,<sup>19</sup> and absorb storm water to reduce flooding and property damage.<sup>20</sup> Social connections can be reinforced by parks,<sup>21</sup> which can improve a community's ability to withstand disasters,<sup>22</sup> and parks can serve as staging areas during emergencies.<sup>23</sup>

**How to Measure:** Assessing the Grow element focuses on environmental stewardship, including parks system practices around recycling and managing waste. It also measures outreach and engagement on ecology and park ecosystems, as well as the environmental conditions in parks, such as air quality.

## PROTECT: Safety in and around Parks



Cities, towns, and communities cannot thrive or enjoy good health unless they are safe. Safety is as much a public health issue as a matter for police and the justice system, since violence and fear of violence increase the risk of all sorts of poor physical and mental health outcomes.<sup>24,25</sup> Safety and perceptions of safety can mean very different things to people depending on their experiences. The Protect element addresses the safety concerns of all people.

People in and around parks need to feel safe, or else they will avoid using parks.<sup>26</sup> Overflowing trash and litter, lack of maintenance, or a lack of clean bathrooms or drinking water discourage park use and lead to negative community perceptions that make parks feel unsafe.<sup>27</sup> In a Complete Parks system, park safety is understood within the context of broader community safety and wellness, since people who feel safe in their neighborhood are more likely to feel safe in their local parks.<sup>28</sup>

**How to Measure:** Assessing the Protect element involves measuring the level of safety in and around parks, as well as some of the conditions and perceptions that support park safety. People are most likely to use parks that feel safe and are clean, well lit, and well maintained,<sup>29,30</sup> so these conditions include park maintenance that addresses litter, graffiti and lighting, as well as alcohol outlet density in the neighborhood.

## FUND: The Support Network for a Complete Parks System



Greater economic inequality within a given population is linked to worse health outcomes for the entire group.<sup>31</sup> Local governments can choose to close the growing gap between affluent households and vulnerable groups struggling to make ends meet by coordinating their efforts and distributing resources equitably throughout their jurisdiction. Deliberately allocating funds and collaborating across sectors to prioritize communities that have further to go to reach optimal health and prosperity have the potential to improve population health and advance health equity.<sup>32,33</sup>

Parks can be supported by blending or braiding funding across departments, since parks often advance the mandates of many other sectors such as public health and community services. Collaboration across the public sector is a defining characteristic of the Complete Parks approach, and various departments can lend support in terms of training and capacity building, community engagement, coordination across sectors, public communications, data systems, and strategic planning, for example.

**How to Measure:** The indicators for the Fund element examines the distribution of spending and appropriations. The dollar amount, how resources are distributed geographically, and who benefits from the funding are all important aspects of equitable funding. Creating a Complete Parks system requires resources, so assessing the Fund element involves looking at the variety of funding sources for parks.

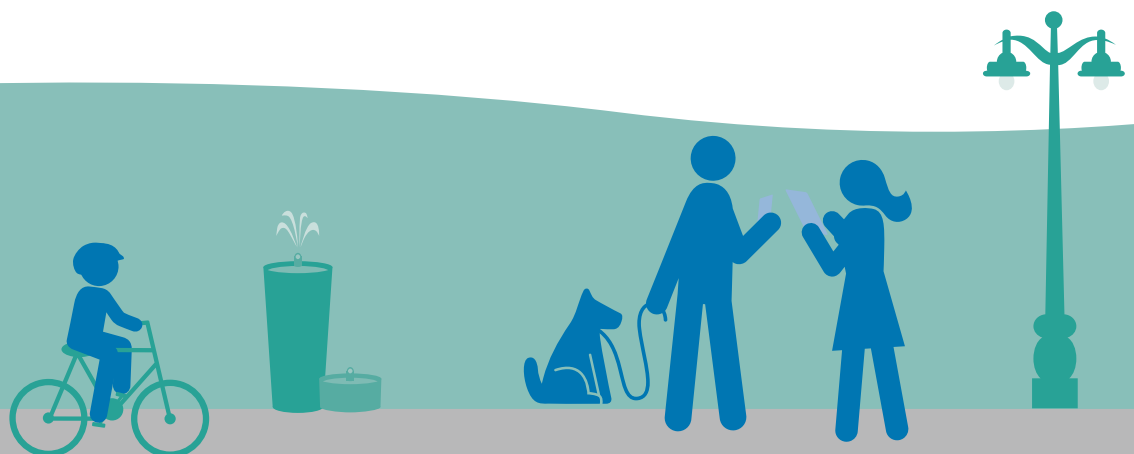


# Guidance on Collecting and Analyzing Data

## Gather and Map Data Spatially

Whenever possible, data for metrics should be gathered for each park or by neighborhood. Assessing parks at the neighborhood level has multiple advantages:

- **Equity.** In many places, well-known boundaries segregate affluent neighborhoods, and relying on system-wide or jurisdiction-wide measurements to assess a parks system can mask areas, neighborhoods, or parks where there are notable gaps in the parks network or areas with urgent needs. To gain a more complete picture, data should be gathered by neighborhood whenever possible. Comparing data from each neighborhood will yield a deeper understanding of the variation and disparities within a city or county and can identify areas and groups where concerted attention and investment could have an outsize impact.
- **Efficiency.** Comparative data is key to any Complete Parks analysis. This is in part because local governments can directly act on inequitable distribution of resources across neighborhoods or different parts of the county, even if there are constraints to quickly resolving any other system-wide issues the assessment may reveal. This allows even a city with very limited funding to see how it's performing with the funds that it has, instead of measuring success against areas with more resources or different assets.
- **Deeper analysis and communication.** Mapping metrics can capture patterns of disparity in a visual display. This can reveal areas with concentrations of issues or needed improvements. Mapping metrics can also be a compelling way of communicating those needs with elected officials, partners, community members, and other stakeholders. Metrics that are well-suited for mapping are noted in the lists of indicators for each element.





Mapping metrics provides added insights, especially about parks system inequities, when overlaid on the following base maps or map layers:

- **Demographics.** These layers may include population by race and ethnicity, gender, or age distribution; income distribution; populations or households at or below 200% of poverty level; or households without access to a vehicle or without an adult who speaks English well.
- **Priority areas.** These layers can help highlight specific areas where certain health-promoting opportunities are lacking. These could include: neighborhoods with high rates of chronic disease, areas around schools where more than half of the students receive free or reduced-price meals, or areas that lack spaces for physical activity and recreation.
- **Parks and open space network.** Map layers can show the locations of parks and other amenities are located, such as schools, libraries, or grocery stores.

Using a geographic information system, or GIS, can be a good way to record, maintain, and map data spatially. Obtaining and preparing data for spatial analysis and creating maps can be labor-intensive and may require training, but this method enables robust analysis and is effective for visualizing a large amount of information, seeing how different factors overlap or interact with each other, and identifying spatial patterns or disparities. It's likely that some personnel in local planning, transportation, public works, or public health departments have expertise and skills in GIS mapping.

Mapping data using GIS or an open-source mapping platform can be especially valuable in understanding inequities within a parks system, since parks are less accessible and not as well-maintained in areas where people of color and people with low incomes tend to live. Depending on the local context, other underserved groups that warrant additional attention may include seniors; youth and young adults; people with disabilities; the re-entry population; people who are homeless, identify as LGBT+, or don't speak English as their first language; immigrants; or refugees.

## Establish a Baseline and Track Data over Time

An important purpose for measuring parks indicators is to track progress toward achieving a Complete Parks system over time. Measuring a set of indicators for the first time generates a baseline, against which all future measurements can be compared. Tracking indicators as strategies are implemented can yield insights into what's working well and what might need adjustment. Over time, the indicators can speak to whether a city, county or town's efforts to create a Complete Parks system are having the desired impact and whether goals are being met.

## Use a Variety of Methods to Collect Data

Each method of collecting and analyzing data offers a different set of strengths and weaknesses. The best method for any situation will depend on the capacity and skills level of the people involved, as well as what they're interested in measuring. All of the sample metrics in this document can be measured through at least one of the methods described in this section.

### Document Review

Reviewing reports, plans, performance ratings, funding proposals, meeting minutes, web pages, marketing materials, and other documents can provide insight into decisions, processes, and actions that have taken place in the past, are currently being implemented, or are planned for the future. This method is relatively inexpensive, doesn't burden other people, and can provide good background information, but it can be time-consuming if the documents are incomplete, poorly organized, or outdated.

### Audits

An audit, sometimes called a site assessment, is ideal for making direct observations of behavior, events, or physical spaces. This method is often used to assess transportation corridors for safety, access, comfort, and convenience, and it can be applied to park and neighborhood spaces too.

Rather than relying on people's willingness or ability to provide accurate information, direct observation involves watching an event or activity unfold in its natural setting. Direct observation accounts for the fact that people who know they're being watched behave differently, since observers should follow social norms and be inconspicuous, not drawing undue attention or inadvertently influencing people's behavior. Direct observation at audits can also be used to gather data about existing infrastructure in and around parks. Because audits rely on people's observations and perceptions, they can introduce or reinforce institutional bias. People – in this case, the observers – involuntarily filter and interpret what they see, and not always strictly empirically. Training for people conducting the audit or observations can help establish consistency and mitigate bias in the data collection.

Although audits can be time-consuming and may require some training to conduct, they are useful for gathering real-time data in situations where existing data are unreliable or outdated, and gaining a better perspective on how people experience the space. Using the "street view" function of online maps can be an alternative way to get information if observers cannot be physically present at the location due to distance, time or capacity constraints, or other reasons.

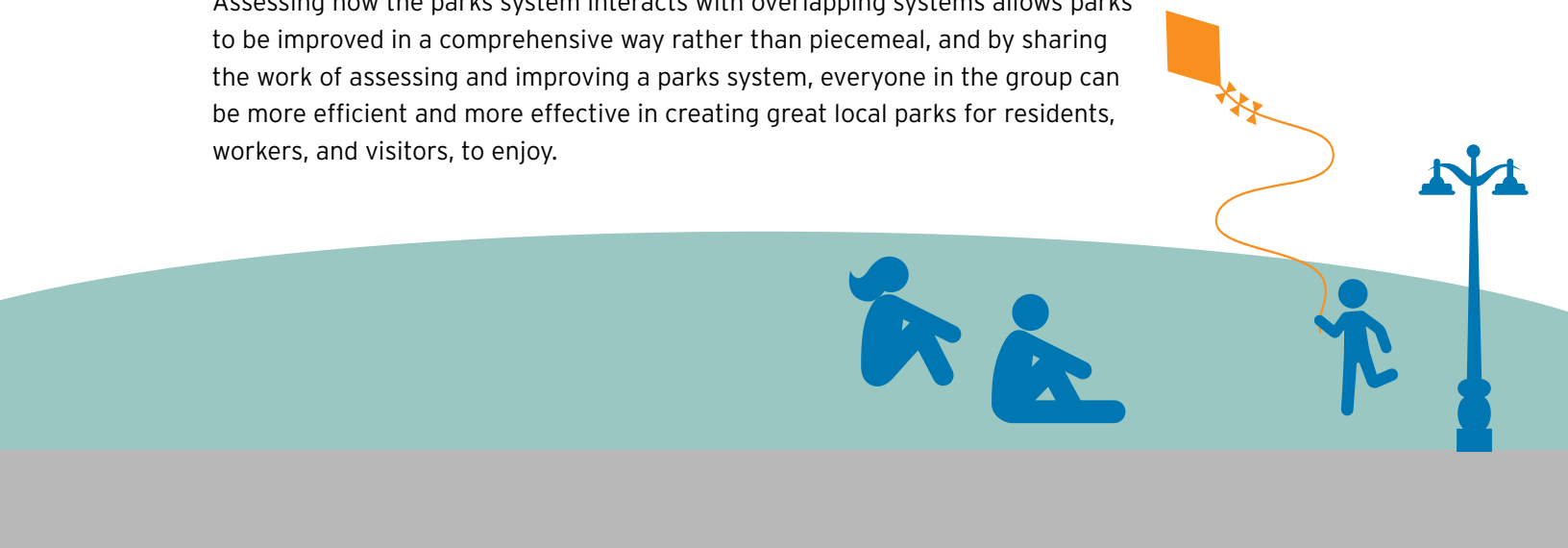
## Surveys

Surveys are effective for gathering data on the perspectives, attitudes and beliefs of residents, community leaders, or government staff. Although hearing directly from the people affected yields valuable insights, qualitative survey responses often require additional analysis. Ways to gather these data include questionnaires, key informant interviews, focus groups, and community forums. It may be helpful to identify ongoing resident engagement processes and established relationships between government staff and community leaders, so that a parks system assessment can complement and build on existing efforts.

## Existing Data

Local government departments or community partners may already collect local statistics, including data on health inequities. In addition, publicly available national datasets can be helpful because they are presented in a standard format that facilitates comparison across jurisdictions or geographic areas. Examining data can be a quick way to get a snapshot of current conditions, but the data might not reflect all perspectives; thus, it is important to use both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods in an assessment. When analyzing data, it is also important to consider the time period in which the data were collected and how regularly they are updated in order to assess whether they accurately capture current conditions. People whose primary role involves liaising between local government and communities, or coordinating across city, county, or regional departments can be especially helpful in connecting people who are interested in assessment with unusual stakeholders and relevant local data sources.

Assessment of a parks system requires pulling data from a variety of sources and is enhanced by including diverse perspectives. Collaboration among multiple communities, sectors, and departments can result in a more efficient and robust assessment and yield coherent strategies to improve the parks system as well as other systems such as transit, safety, and public works. Assessing how the parks system interacts with overlapping systems allows parks to be improved in a comprehensive way rather than piecemeal, and by sharing the work of assessing and improving a parks system, everyone in the group can be more efficient and more effective in creating great local parks for residents, workers, and visitors, to enjoy.





# Indicators & Sample Metrics

This section presents indicators and sample metrics for each Complete Parks element. The indicators are factors or variables that express some meaningful aspect of a Complete Parks system. Organized by the relevant indicator, metrics are specific values derived from calculating or combining measurements that gauge progress on a particular indicator. Metrics capture the degree to which the parks system exhibits some important aspect of a Complete Parks element.

As an example, consider “Accessibility of Parks,” an indicator for the CONNECT element. One of the metrics that gauges progress on this indicator is “Number of people who visited a park in this system in the last three months.” If the number of people who visited a park is high, then it’s more likely that the park system performing well on this aspect of the Connect element. Taken together, the metrics and indicators for all 7 elements provide a snapshot of current conditions and assess how closely a given park system matches the characteristics of a Complete Parks system.

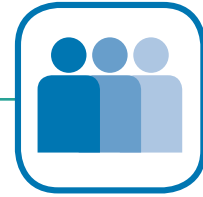
Within each element, the Complete Parks indicators are listed in order of importance or relevance for most parks systems. The likely method of data collection is listed in gray for each metric. Special considerations are shown in green boxes. Some Complete Parks elements are closely related, so metrics listed under one element could apply to another. For these metrics, look for icons for other related elements.

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ACTIVATE .....	16
GROW .....	17
PROTECT .....	18
FUND .....	19

## LOCATE indicator example:

Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
	<b>1. Distance to parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Percentage of residents who live within a half mile of a park</li> <li>b. Acres of park per population (for example, per 1,000 residents)</li> <li>c. Percentage of parks with entrance and wayfinding features (for example, directional signs, pavement markings, and maps) in appropriate languages for the resident population</li> </ul>	<div>←</div> <div>MAPPING</div> <div>AUDIT</div>	<div>Research suggests that in order to maximize the MAPPING benefits, residents should live within a half mile of a park, which is approximately equivalent to a ten minute walk. These distance and time thresholds may vary depending on the preferences.</div>





# ENGAGE

## Inclusive, Meaningful, Ongoing Dialogue

Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
	<b>1. Residents' perception of government engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Percentage of residents who say that government tries to engage communities to improve decisions and outcomes – disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic</li><li>b. Percentage of residents who say that parks are an important issue – disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic</li></ul>	SURVEY	
	<b>2. Extent of community engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Frequency of efforts by local government to engage communities on parks</li><li>b. Number of methods used by local government to engage communities on parks</li><li>c. Percentage of residents reached through community engagement methods (for example, attended outreach events, responded to surveys, or received information) during a specified time period – disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic</li><li>d. Average reading level of government materials created to inform the general public OR degree of adherence to adopted plain-language standards</li></ul>	DOCUMENT REVIEW	
	<b>3. Effectiveness of community engagement</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Degree to which the demographics of people reached through community engagement processes during 1 year reflect the overall demographics of the county, city, or town</li><li>b. Percentage of residents who say that local government does a good job of communicating information about issues that affect them and their neighborhood – disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic</li></ul>	SURVEY	

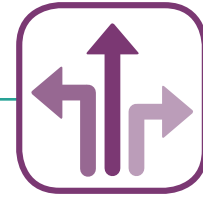


# CONNECT

## Safe Routes to Parks


Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
	<b>1. Accessibility of parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Percentage of parks in the system that meet the accessibility requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act</li><li>b. Percentage of streets within a half mile of parks with infrastructure that supports walking or bicycling, such as sidewalks or bike lanes</li><li>c. Utilization of vehicle and bicycle parking spaces at each park (number available vs. number occupied during peak use)</li><li>d. Number of people who visited a park in this system the last 3 months</li></ul>	<div>DOCUMENT REVIEW</div> <div>AUDIT</div> <div>SURVEY</div>	<p>A half mile is approximately equivalent to a ten minute walk, which is considered a walkable distance by industry standards. These distance and time thresholds may vary depending on the preferences and abilities of residents and the environment, and communities should adjust their thresholds accordingly. For example, children and older adults may require more time when traveling, and in rural or suburban areas, parks and other amenities may be located further away from each other.</p>
	<b>2. Integration of parks and other systems or services</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Percentage of park entrances within walking distance of key destinations or amenities, such as transit stops, schools, libraries, grocery stores, medical clinics or hospitals, or shopping centers, by neighborhood</li><li>b. Number of hours when a park is open and no buses or trains arrive at stops within 2 blocks of the park</li><li>c. Percentage of parks programs for which participants could arrive via public transit within 30 minutes of start time and with transit stops within two blocks of park entrance</li><li>d. Number of cross-promotional materials between parks and transportation systems such as a greenways network, carpools or shuttles, made available to the general public</li></ul>	<div>MAPPING</div> <div>DOCUMENT REVIEW</div>	<p>Especially in places without a transit system, one way to measure connectivity of parks is proximity to other community amenities, however the community defines this.</p> <p>Although some parks may be show qualities of a Complete Park within the park boundaries, people may encounter unsafe conditions on their way to and from the park, such as high traffic volumes and wide crossings, especially in urban areas. This metric can help identify ways to prevent traffic-related risks and enhance the park experience for users.</p>
	<b>3. Safety of routes to and through parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Risk of traffic-related injuries or collisions for all modes of transportation (high, medium, or low risk)</li><li>b. Annual number of traffic collisions within a half mile of parks, for all modes of transportation – <i>disaggregate people involved in collisions by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic</i></li></ul>	<div>AUDIT</div> <div>DATA ANALYSIS</div>	





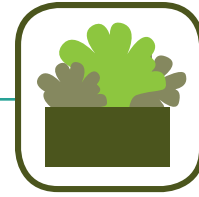
# LOCATE



## Equitable Distribution of Complete Parks

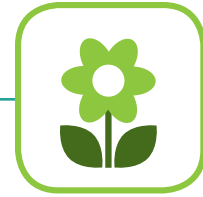
Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
	<b>1. Distance to parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Percentage of residents who live within a half mile of a park</li><li>b. Acres of park per population (for example, per 1,000 residents)</li><li>c. Percentage of parks with entrance and wayfinding features (for example, directional signs, pavement markings, and maps) in appropriate languages for the resident population</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>MAPPING</li><li>AUDIT</li></ul>	<p>Research suggests that in order to maximize the benefits, residents should live within a half mile of a park, which is approximately equivalent to a ten minute walk. These distance and time thresholds may vary depending on the preferences and abilities of residents and the environment, and communities should adjust their thresholds accordingly. For example, children and older adults may require more time when traveling, and in rural or suburban areas, parks and other amenities may be located further away from each other.</p>
	<b>2. Potential to increase park space</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a. Inventory of possible shared use sites, such as schools, water reservoirs or basins, and churches</li><li>b. Acreage and quantity of public vacant lots and/or underutilized public land</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>DOCUMENT REVIEW</li><li>DATA ANALYSIS</li></ul>	

# ACTIVATE

## Community-Led Park Activities and Programs



Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
	<b>1. Satisfaction with uses of parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Percentage of residents and visitors who are satisfied with nearby parks – <i>disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic</i></li> <li>b. Percentage of residents and visitors who say they are able to use nearby parks the way they'd like – <i>disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic</i></li> </ul>	SURVEY	It can be helpful to stratify ALL Activate indicators by types of parks (for example, pocket, neighborhood, community, regional, special use, open space, or greenbelt), as different types of parks may be intended to serve different purposes.
	<b>2. Activity levels in parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Degree to which the demographics of parks program participants reflects the overall demographics of the county, city, or town</li> <li>b. Number and types of uses of parks</li> </ul>	DOCUMENT REVIEW  AUDIT	Examining the demographics of park program participants is recommended because parks in low-income neighborhoods or where many people of color live tend to have fewer recreation programs than parks in more affluent neighborhoods where mostly white people live.
 CONNECT   LOCATE	<b>3. Inclusiveness of parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Percentage of park signs and communication materials that are in languages relevant to the resident population</li> <li>b. Number and types of rules or procedures likely to present barriers to park use, such as the requirement of keys kept off-site to access park courts, fields or bathrooms, or reservation systems that are only available when most people work, for example.</li> </ul>	DOCUMENT REVIEW	Some rules or procedures that may seem burdensome to some people may provide benefits to others, so it is important to consider the intent of the rules or procedures for this metric. For example, restrictions on where dogs are allowed in parks could help some people feel more comfortable, but limit others in using the park. After conducting a document review to identify potential rules or procedures that present barriers to park use, a survey could be administered to park users as well as park service providers or local government staff about perceived barriers. The results could be compared to see how perceptions might align or differ.



# GROW

## Parks Maintenance and Ecology





Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
	<b>1. Environmental stewardship practices in parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Number of policies or practices for improving environmental responsibility in the parks system</li> <li>b. Number of sustainability design features in each park—for example, tree coverage, design for storm water infiltration systems, energy-efficient lighting, drought-tolerant landscaping</li> <li>c. Percentage of parks with a waste management plan to minimize environmental impact</li> <li>d. Percentage of parks with recycling bins that are visible, well-marked, and easy to locate</li> </ul>	<div>DOCUMENT REVIEW</div> <div>AUDIT</div>	<p>An equity analysis is recommended for ALL Grow Indicators, because research suggests that parks maintenance and basic parks amenities may be more important to communities of color and people living in low-income neighborhoods than other Complete Parks elements. Black and Latino residents in Houston, for example, were concerned about poor park maintenance and the lack of restrooms and water fountains.* They cared most about improving basic services in existing parks, whereas mostly white, affluent survey respondents prioritized the Connect element.</p> <p>* Smiley KT, Sharma T, Steinberg A, et al. More Inclusive Parks Planning: Park Quality and Preferences for Park Access and Amenities. Environmental Justice. 2016;9(1):1-7.</p>
	<b>2. Environmental outreach in parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Percentage of parks with environmental education programs, such as community gardens, cleanup events, and partnerships with schools science departments, ecology non-profit organizations, farmers' markets, and/or nursery or gardening businesses</li> </ul>	DOCUMENT REVIEW	
	<b>3. Environmental conditions of parks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Number of days annually when air quality was rated "unhealthy" or "unhealthy for sensitive groups," by neighborhood or zip code</li> </ul>	DATA ANALYSIS	





# PROTECT

## Safety In and Around Parks

Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
	<b>1. Level of safety in and around parks</b>		<div>An equity analysis is recommended for ALL Protect Indicators, because research suggests that safety concerns are more common for parks that serve communities of color and low-income neighborhoods, compared to parks in mostly white or more affluent areas.</div>
 GROW	a. Number of days that park equipment has been overdue for maintenance or replacement, by neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/> DOCUMENT REVIEW	
	b. Crime rate or violent crime rate by neighborhood	<input type="checkbox"/> DATA ANALYSIS	
 CONNECT	c. Injury types and rates in and around parks	<input type="checkbox"/> AUDIT	
	d. Presence of park design features that support safety		
	<b>2. Conditions and perceptions that influence park safety</b>		
	a. Alcohol outlet density	<input type="checkbox"/> MAPPING	
 GROW	b. Number of reported complaints related to park maintenance or safety – disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic	<input type="checkbox"/> DOCUMENT REVIEW	
 GROW	c. Number of staff and volunteer hours spent per month on park maintenance		
	d. Percentage of park budget or annual budget allocated for maintenance, by neighborhood or park	<input type="checkbox"/> SURVEY	
	e. Percentage of residents who say they feel safe in their local park – disaggregate by age, race, income, gender, or other meaningful demographic		



# FUND

## The Support Network for a Complete Parks System

Related Elements	Complete Parks Indicators	Collection Methods	Special Considerations
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### 1. Distribution of park spending and appropriations

- a. Per capita expenditure on parks by neighborhood
- b. Percentage of annual budget designated for parks and how it is spent, by neighborhood

### 2. Operational support for parks

- a. Diversity of funding sources for parks, including public, private, and philanthropic sources
- b. Percentage of funding allocated for coordination efforts among sectors, departments and community groups, and/or for local government staff positions where coordination is a primary responsibility

DOCUMENT  
REVIEW

# Data Sources and Tools

## Mapping

- [Guide for Measuring Alcohol Outlet Density](#)
- [Improving Public Health through Public Parks and Trails: Eight Common Measures](#)

## Document Review

Potential resources to find information related to Complete Parks indicators and metrics include:

### Plans

- Bicycle, pedestrian, and trails master plans
- Comprehensive plans
- Neighborhood or area-specific plans
- Parks and recreation master plans
- Safe Routes to Schools plans
- Vision Zero Action Plans

### Other Documents

- Annual reports
- Community needs assessments
- Health impact assessments
- Job descriptions
- Social media
- Meeting minutes
- Websites

## Audit Tools

- [Audit guidelines, checklists and resources](#), by Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
- [Community Park Audit Tool \(CPAT\)](#), by Active Living Research
- [Get to Know Your Neighborhood With a Walk Audit](#), by Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- [Pedestrian Environmental Data Scan \(PEDS\)](#), by Kelly Clifton et al., University of Maryland
- [PIN3 Neighborhood Audit Instrument](#), by Kelly Evenson et al., University of North Carolina
- [Rural Active Living Assessment \(RALA\)](#), by David Hartley et al., Maine Rural Health Research Center, University of Southern Maine
- [Rural Active Living Perceived Environmental Support Scale \(RALPESS\)](#), by Renee Umstattd et al., Baylor University
- [Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework](#), by National Recreation and Park Association and Safe Routes to School National Partnership
- [System for Observing Play and Leisure Activity in Youth \(SOPLAY\)](#), by Thomas L. McKenzie, San Diego State University

## Survey Design

- [Designing and Conducting Health Surveys: A Comprehensive Guide](#), by Lu Ann Aday and Llewellyn J. Cornelius



## Existing Data

### Publicly Available Data

Data sets that cover multiple topics are listed first, followed by data sets that are specific to one or more Complete Parks elements.

- [American Community Survey](#)
- [City Parks Facts](#)
- [Data.gov](#)
- [National Health Interview Survey](#)
- [US Census](#)
- [Fatality Analysis Reporting System](#)
- [Transportation and Health Tool](#)
- [AirCompare](#)
- [Air Quality Index](#)
- [Uniform Crime Reporting Statistics](#)

### Data Shared by Partners

In addition to parks and recreation, other partners might include:

- Community and neighborhood service providers
- Economic and workforce development agencies
- Educational institutions
- Elected officials
- Fire and law enforcement agencies
- Housing authorities and developers
- Planning departments
- Public health departments
- Public works departments
- Residents, community-based groups, advocates, activists, and organizers
- Social service providers
- Transportation departments
- People who liaise between local government and communities
- People who coordinate efforts across city, county, or regional level departments

## Resources

[A Comparison of Four Audit Tools to Assess the Rural Built Environment for Active Travel: Which is best for community-led initiatives?](#)

Kaycie Stushek, Department of Urban and Regional Planning, University of Wisconsin – Madison, WI

[Creating Park Signage](#)

Project for Public Spaces

[Creating Safe Park Zones for Communities in Illinois](#)

Active Transportation Alliance

[Facility Design](#)

Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center

[Health Equity and Community Engagement Reports](#)

Bay Area Regional Health Inequities Initiative

[Healthy Parks Healthy People Community Engagement eGuide](#)

National Parks Conservation Association

[Interactive Maps and Data](#)

as part of the Los Angeles Countywide Comprehensive Parks & Recreation Needs Assessment, by Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation

[Malibu Parks Public Access Enhancement Plan: Park and Trail Accessibility Design Guidelines](#)

Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority

[Park Equity Maps and Analyses](#)

GreenInfo Network

[Safe Routes to Parks Action Framework](#)

National Recreation and Parks Association and Safe Routes to School National Partnership

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# Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan

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Online Survey Results Summer 2020

# Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan Community Survey Results Summer 2020

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Bastrop County is currently drafting a 10 years Parks and Open Space Master Plan to guide the development of County owned parks in the unincorporated area, which include Stony Point Park, Cedar Creek Park and the Bastrop County Nature Park. As part of this an online survey was conducted to gain input from county residents during the month of May, 2020.

This survey comprised the initial round of public consultation for the plan. It was conducted over the course of 1 month and was available online in English and in Spanish. 161 responses were received, of which 2 were in Spanish

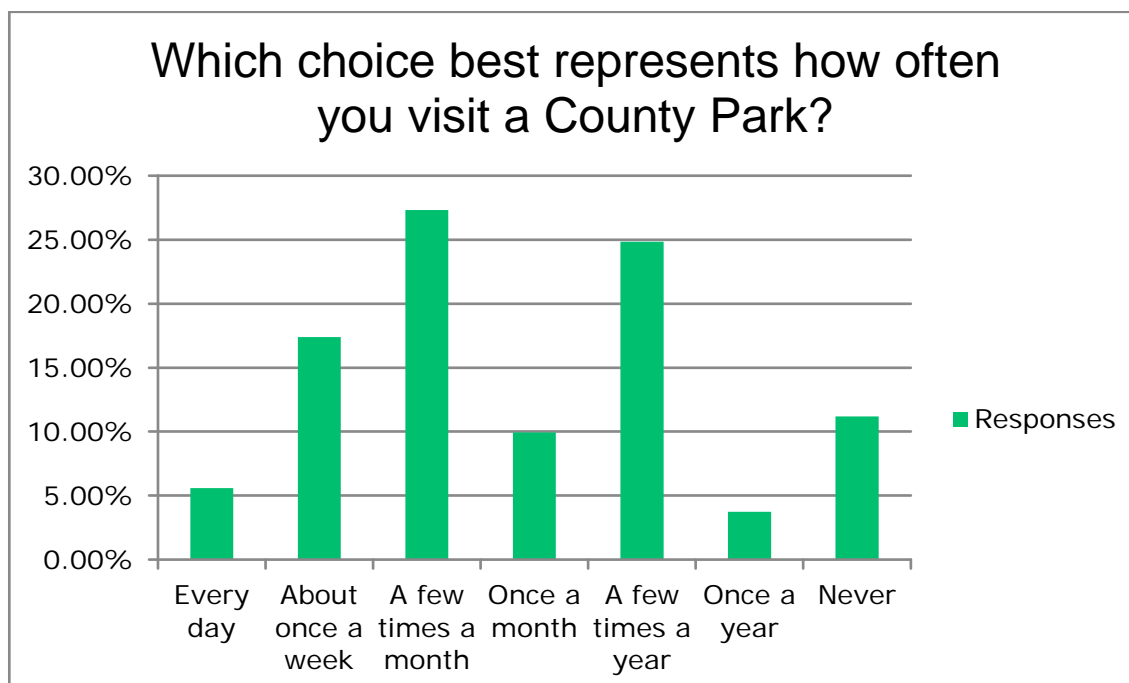
Unfortunately, the in-person component of the public outreach was delayed due to COVID-19, and will be replaced with digital workshops commencing Fall 2020.

The responses from the survey will be used to identify specific capital improvements for the park, as well as ideas for the long term management and maintenance of the parks, programming, and volunteering partnerships.



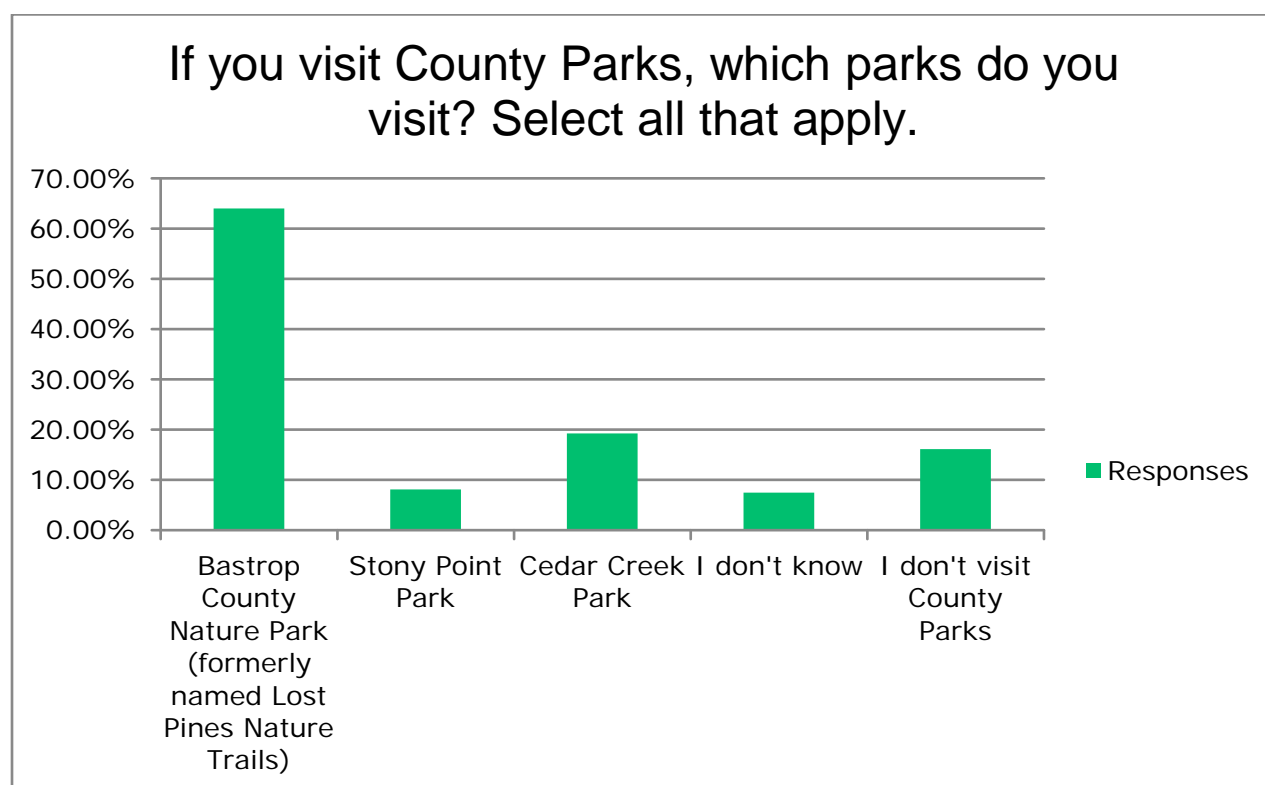
### 1. Which choice best represents how often you visit a County Park?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Every day	5.59%	9
About once a week	17.39%	28
A few times a month	27.33%	44
Once a month	9.94%	16
A few times a year	24.84%	40
Once a year	3.73%	6
Never	11.18%	18
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



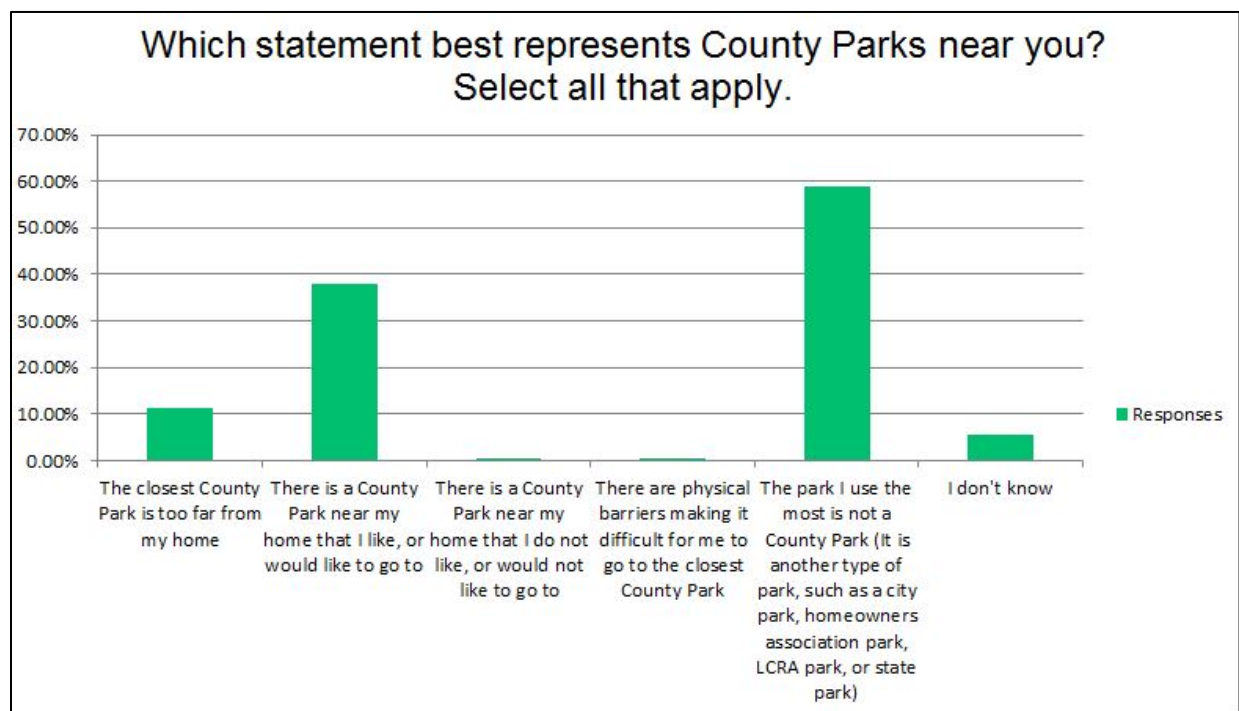
**2. If you visit County Parks, which parks do you visit? Select all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Bastrop County Nature Park (formerly named Lost Pines Nature Trails)	63.98%	103
Stony Point Park	8.07%	13
Cedar Creek Park	19.25%	31
I don't know	7.45%	12
I don't visit County Parks	16.15%	26
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



**3. Which statement best represents County Parks near you? Select all that apply.**

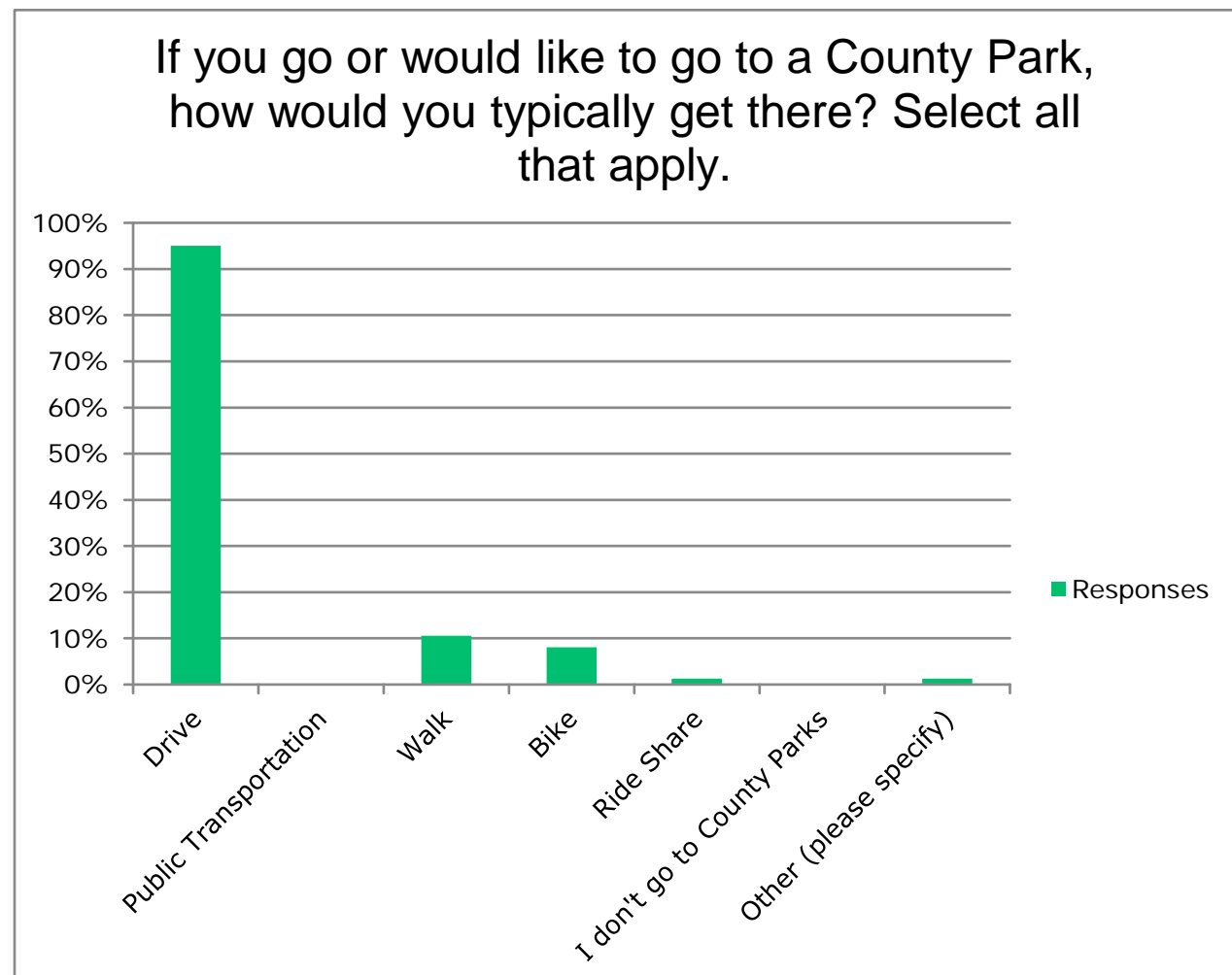
Answer Choices	Responses	
The closest County Park is too far from my home	11.18%	18
There is a County Park near my home that I like, or would like to go to	37.89%	61
There is a County Park near my home that I do not like, or would not like to go to	0.62%	1
There are physical barriers making it difficult for me to go to the closest County Park	0.62%	1
The park I use the most is not a County Park (It is another type of park, such as a city park, homeowners association park, LCRA park, or state park)	59.01%	95
I don't know	5.59%	9
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0





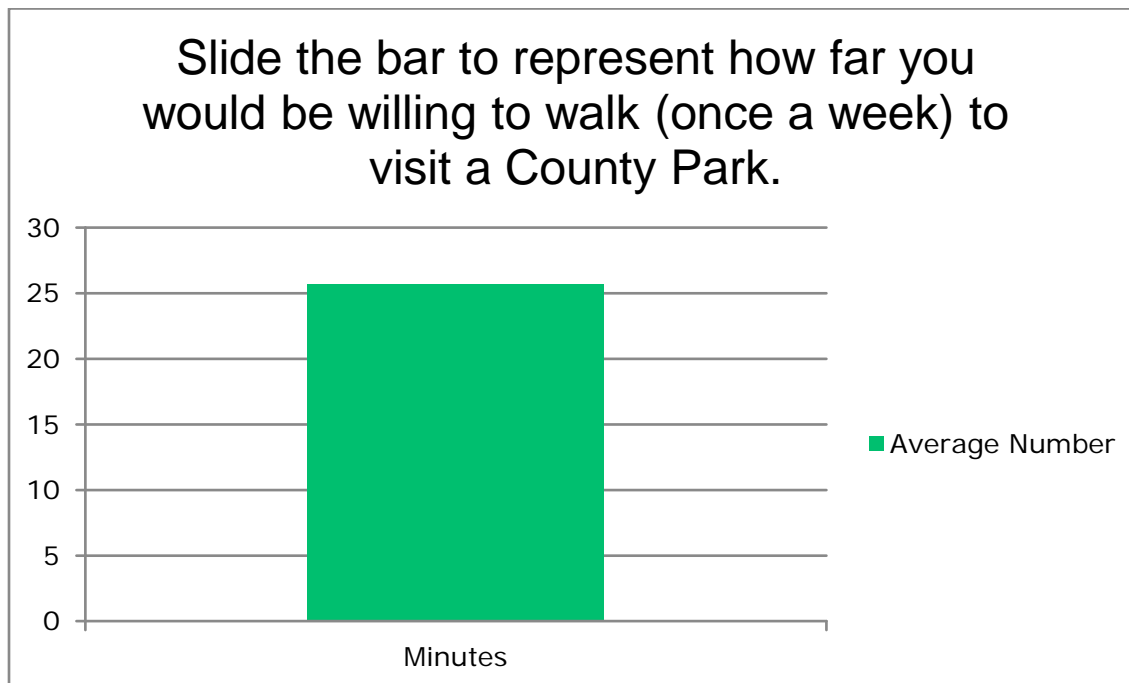
**4. If you go or would like to go to a County Park, how would you typically get there? Select all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Drive	95.03%	153
Public Transportation	0.00%	0
Walk	10.56%	17
Bike	8.07%	13
Ride Share	1.24%	2
I don't go to County Parks	0.00%	0
Other (please specify)	1.24%	2
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



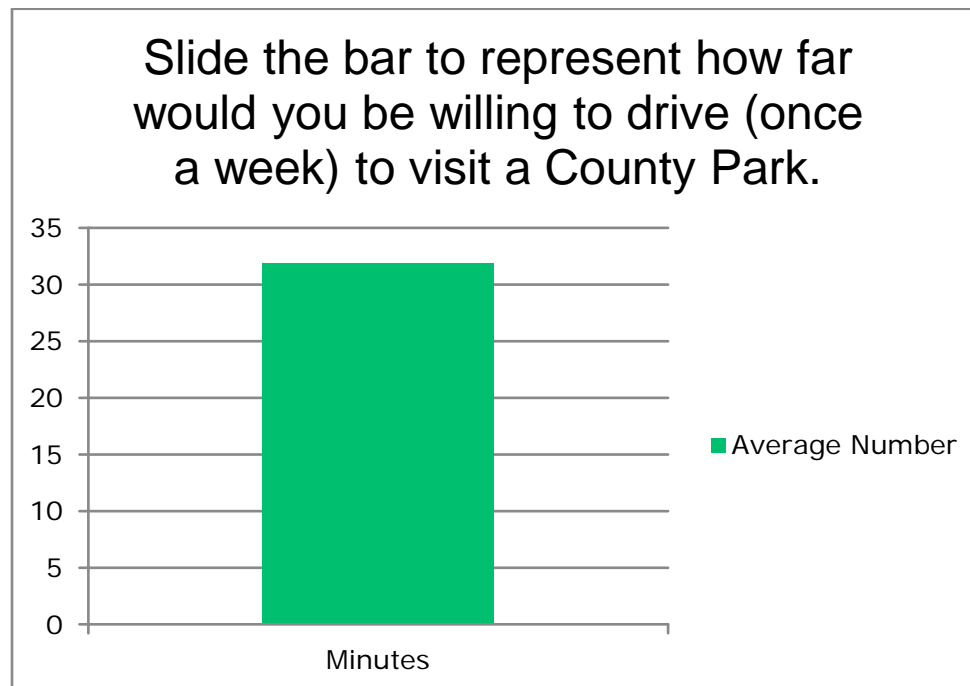
5. Slide the bar to represent how far you would be willing to walk (once a week) to visit a County Park.

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	
Minutes	25.7012987	3958	100.00%	154
			Answered	154
			Skipped	7



**6. Slide the bar to represent how far would you be willing to drive (once a week) to visit a County Park.**

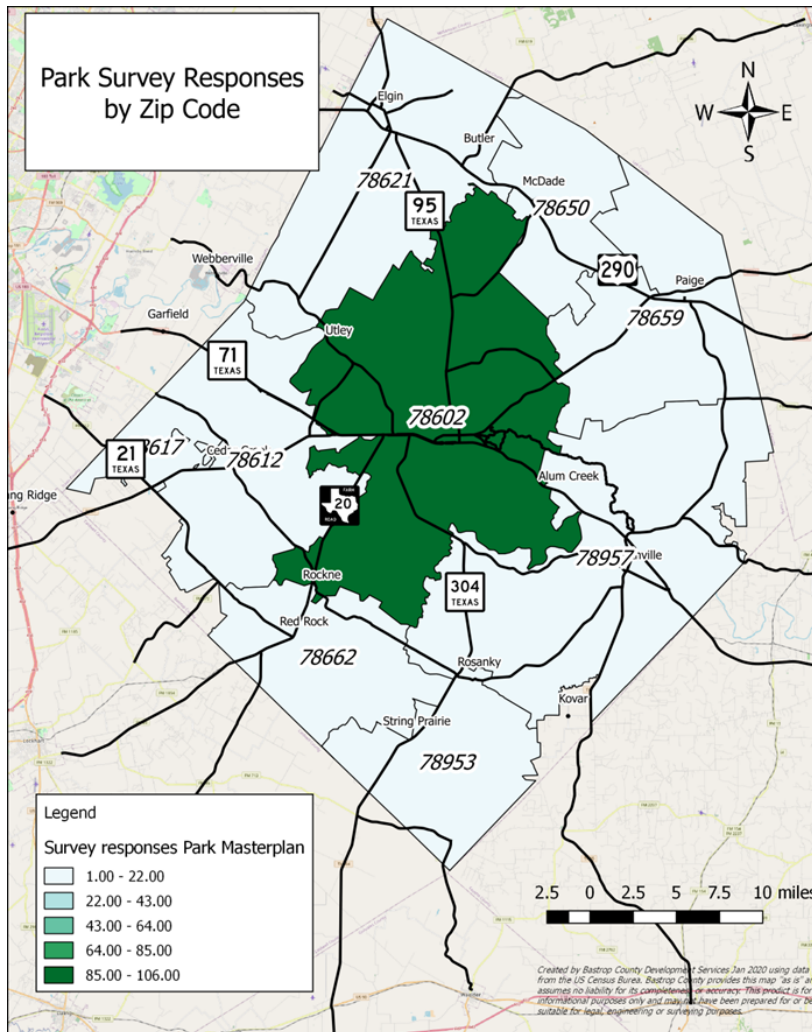
Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses	
Minutes	31.85	5096	100.00%	160
			Answered	160
			Skipped	1





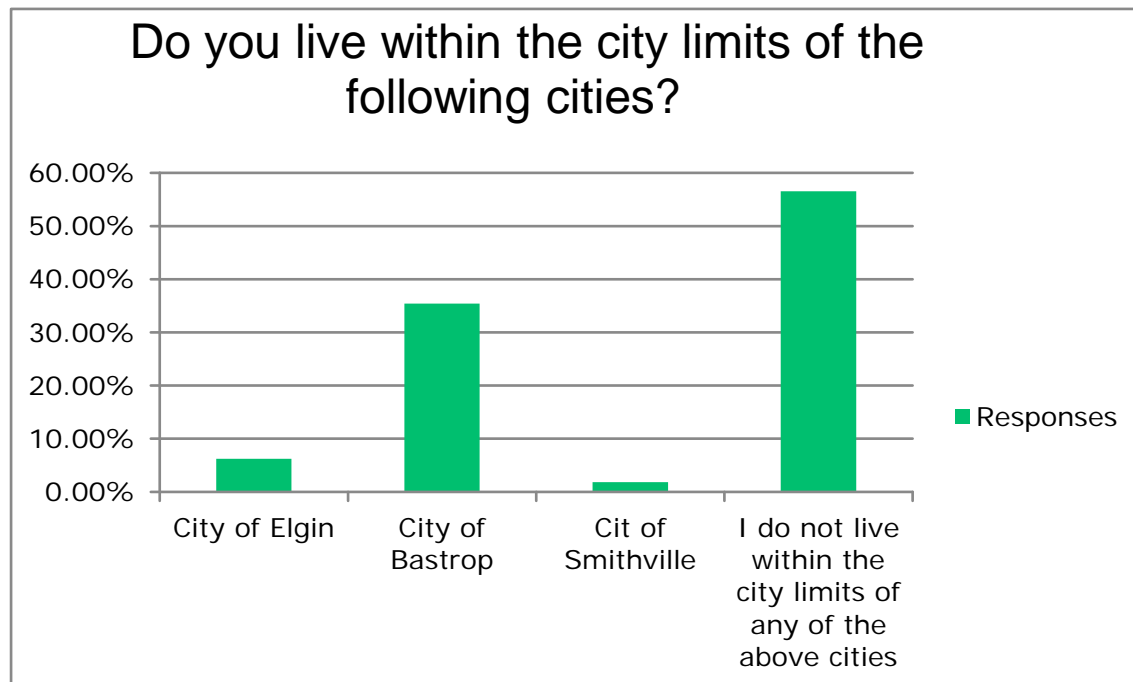
## 7. What is your zip code?

Answer Choices	Average Number	Total Number	Responses
Bastrop	78602	106	66.7%
Cedar Creek	78612	14	8.8%
Elgin	78621	13	8.2%
Smithville	78957	8	5.0%
Red Rock	78662	6	3.8%
Paige	78659	5	3.1%
Del Valle	78617	4	2.5%
Rosanky	78953	1	0.6%
McDade	78650	1	0.6%
Hutto	78634	1	0.6%
		159	100%



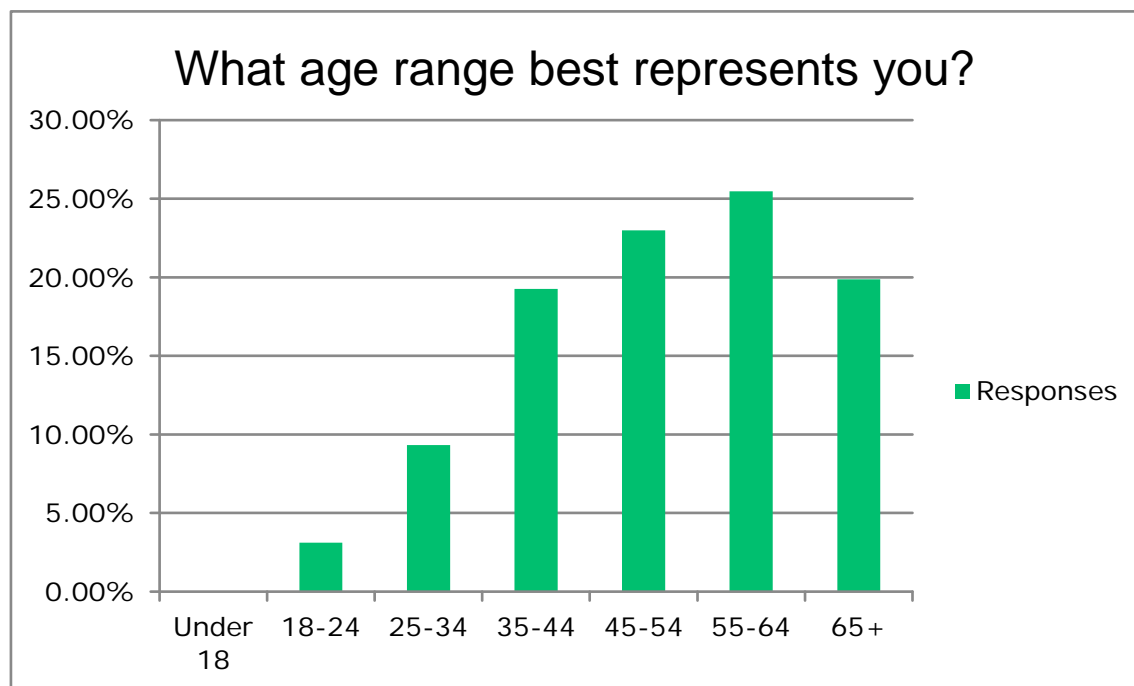
## 8. Do you live within the city limits of the following cities?

Answer Choices	Responses	
City of Elgin	6.21%	10
City of Bastrop	35.40%	57
Cit of Smithville	1.86%	3
I do not live within the city limits of any of the above cities	56.52%	91
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0



## 9. What age range best represents you?

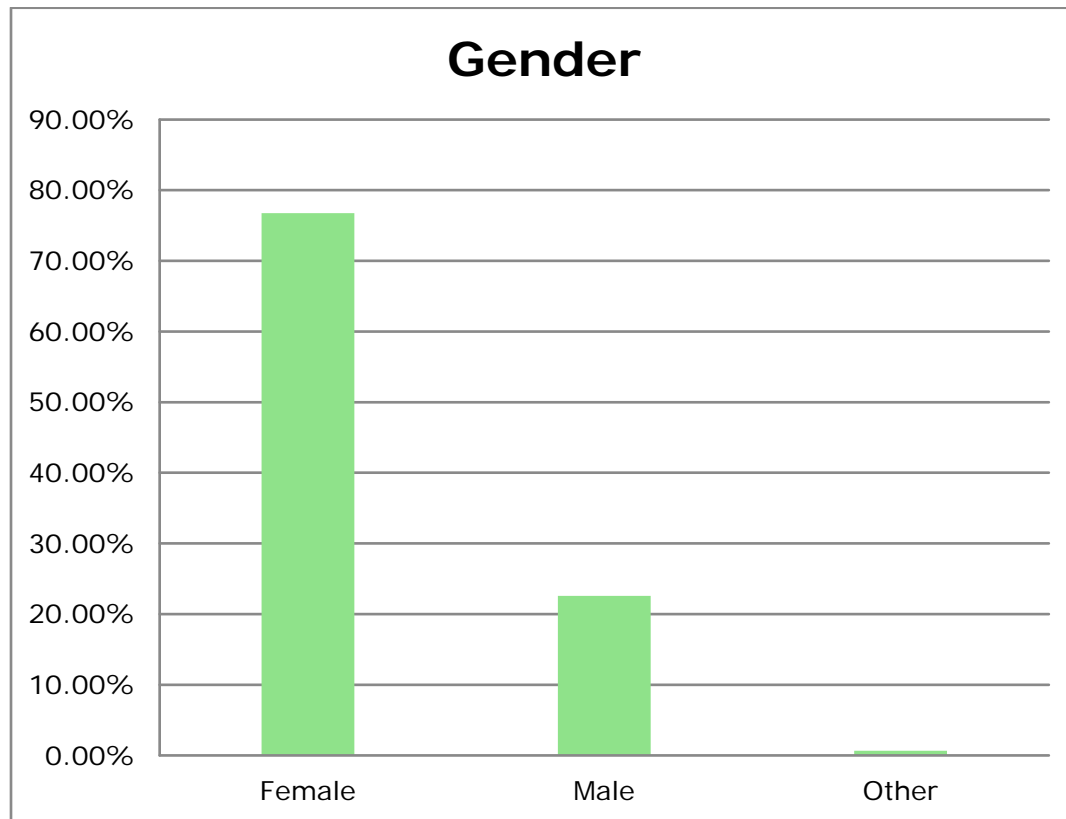
Answer Choices	Responses	
Under 18	0.00%	0
18-24	3.11%	5
25-34	9.32%	15
35-44	19.25%	31
45-54	22.98%	37
55-64	25.47%	41
65+	19.88%	32
	Answered	161
	Skipped	0





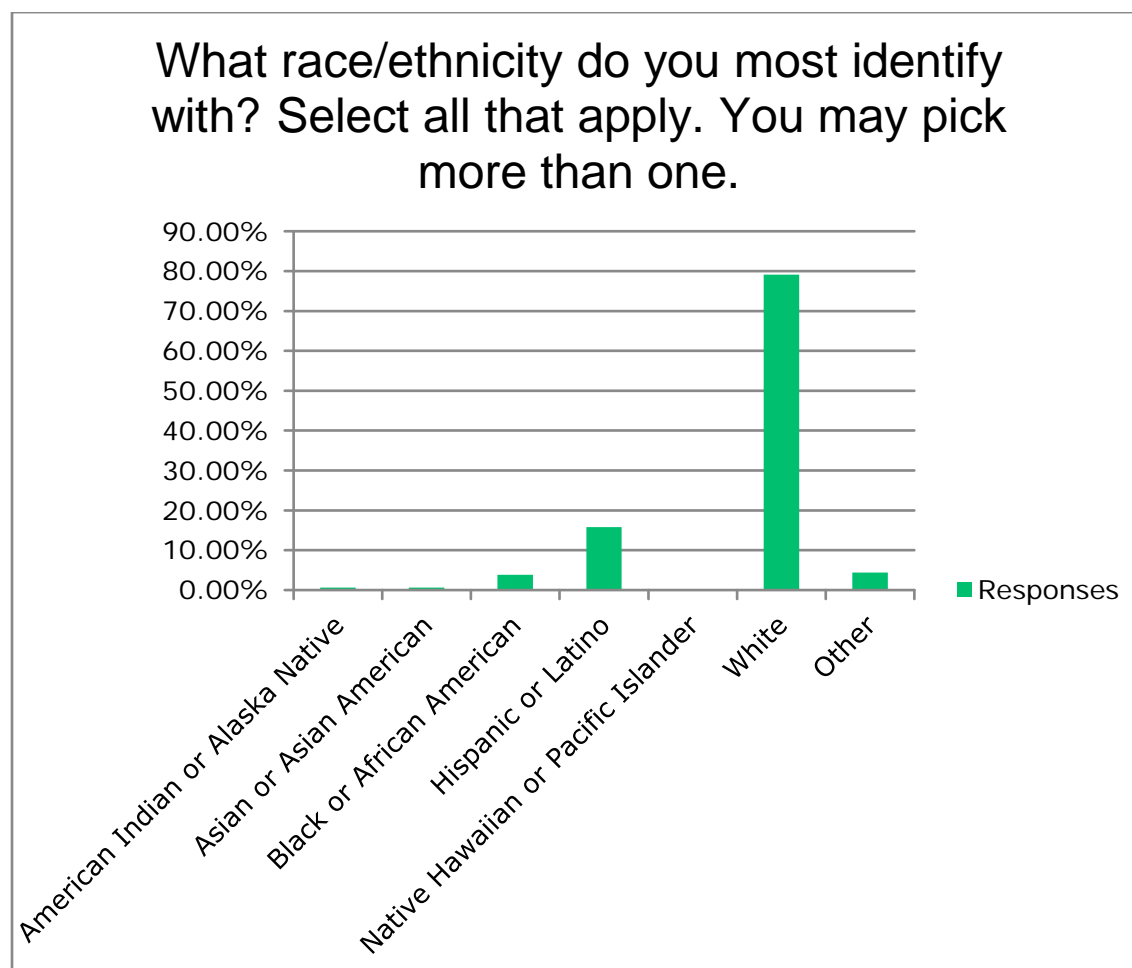
## 10. What is your gender?

Female	Male	Other	Total
76.77%	22.58%	0.65%	
119	35	1	155
Answered	156		
Skipped	5		



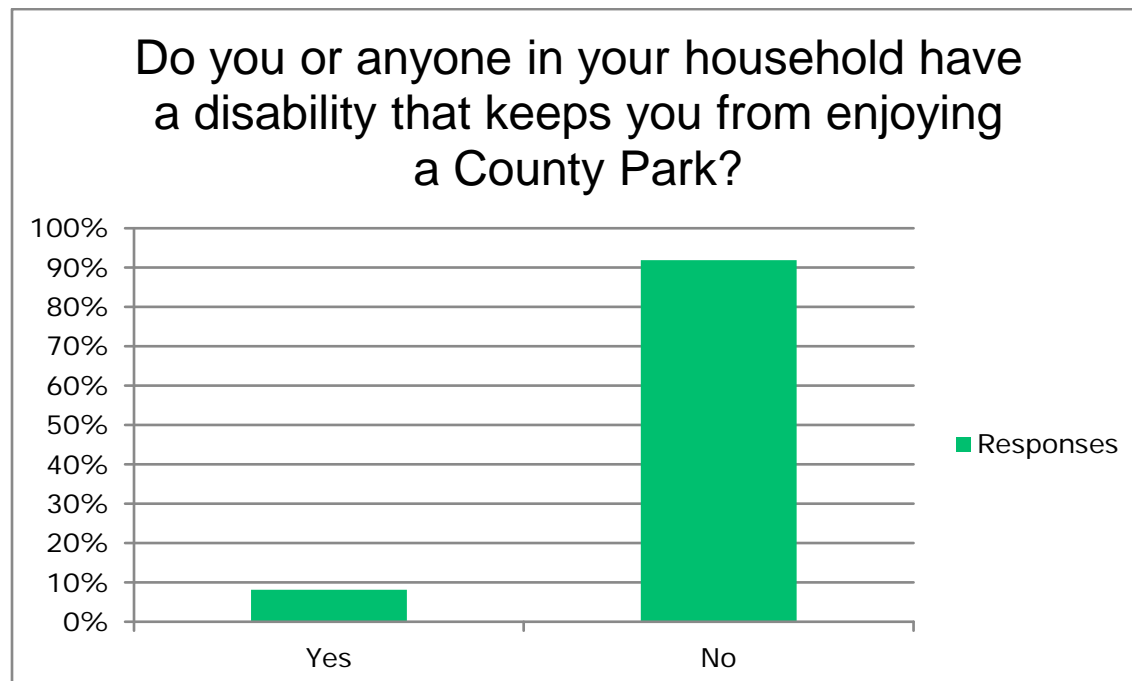
**11. What race/ethnicity do you most identify with? Select all that apply. You may pick more than one.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
American Indian or Alaska Native	0.63%	1
Asian or Asian American	0.63%	1
Black or African American	3.80%	6
Hispanic or Latino	15.82%	25
Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander	0.00%	0
White	79.11%	125
Other	4.43%	7
	Answered	158
	Skipped	3



**12. Do you or anyone in your household have a disability that keeps you from enjoying a County Park?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	8.13%	13
No	91.88%	147
If yes, please specify		6
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1



**Specific answers**

- Not a disability, but we have young children who do not walk yet
- I have to use a walker
- I use a cane to walk
- Surgery on my wife's disability
- Physical – can only use paved or pretty even trails
- Amputation

**13. If amenities such as sidewalks were available, would you consider walking to a County Park from your home?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	73.13%	117
No	26.88%	43
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1





**14. Do any of these things prevent you from going to County Parks?  
Select all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Biting insects	18.92%	28
Too hot	29.73%	44
Too much sun	20.27%	30
Not physically safe	14.19%	21
Lack of transportation	0.68%	1
Too far away	29.73%	44
Lack of time	18.24%	27
Lack of amenities	24.32%	36
I don't need to go to a County Park because I am already served by other types of parks near me (such as a city park, homeowners association park, LCRA Park or a state park)	27.70%	41
Other (please specify)	11.49%	17
	Answered	148
	Skipped	13

**Specific answers**

- You have to pay to enter
- The County Judge closing the parks
- Since Tahitian have (*given the park to the?*) county too many drug paraphernalia and booze litter left along river
- Too much poison ivy
- None of the above we love our park
- Snakes and critters
- The gates are not always opened, especially on weekends. Don't know why there are gates. City and State parks do not have gates but still have operating hours
- Too sterile/ cleared of trees and vegetation; not enough natural habitat
- Too isolated
- Nothing preventing me from going
- I go to my county park. Though I would like other amenities
- Trails not maintained well
- No outdoor exercise equipment for adults
- Poison Ivy or Oak
- Sometimes CC park is mowed enough especially on the wooded trails and I'm afraid of snakes. Trails need mowing more often. The other Bastrop parks are too far away.
- No sidewalks to our closest park
- Scary people

**15. What are your favorite things about the County Parks? Select all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Trails	77.50%	124
Playgrounds	28.13%	45
Trees	70.00%	112
Birds	54.38%	87
Benches	44.38%	71
Picnic tables	40.63%	65
Sports courts	15.00%	24
Peacefulness	61.88%	99
Creeks/river access	61.88%	99
Meeting with others	21.25%	34
Pavilion space	21.88%	35
Fresh air	68.75%	110
Ball fields	10.63%	17
Not applicable	6.88%	11
Other (please specify)	8.75%	14
	Answered	160
	Skipped	1

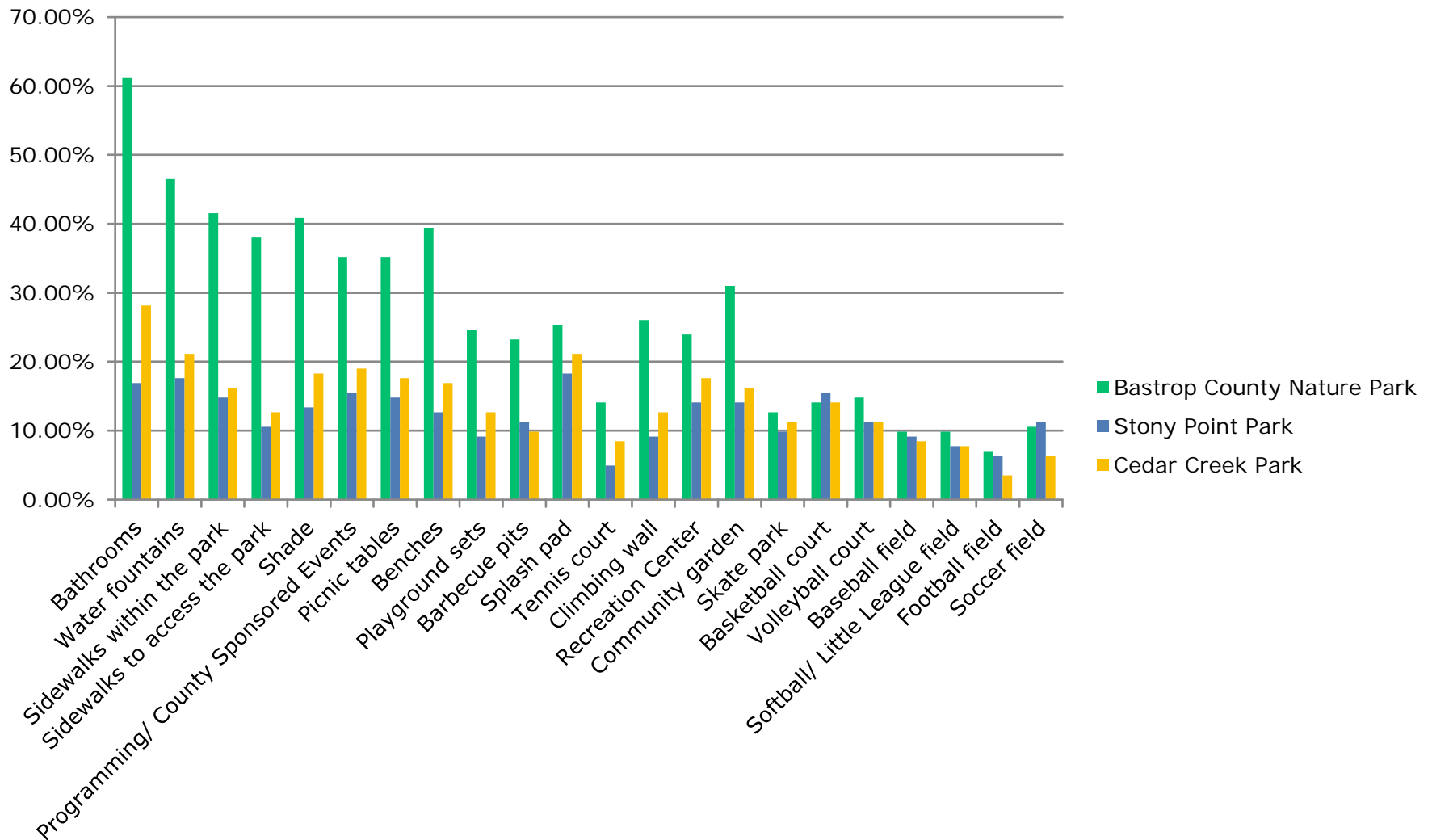
**Specific answers**

- Fishing
- Safe
- Swimming pools
- Nature kept natural as much as possible
- Restrooms
- Biking, cabins with A/C
- Pet friendly
- Native habitat
- The only County park I visit is the Nature Park and I like it over the other two parks because it is still wild – not polished like a city park.
- Other wildlife (deer, turtles)
- Need playground equipment, picnic tables
- Outdoor exercise equipment
- Fish

**16. Please use the matrix below to identify things you would like to see more of at each of the County Parks you go to. Only answer for the County Parks relevant to you. Select all that apply.**

	Bastrop County Nature Park		Stony Point Park		Cedar Creek Park		Total
Bathrooms	61.27%	87	16.90%	24	28.17%	40	112
Water fountains	46.48%	66	17.61%	25	21.13%	30	88
Shade	40.85%	58	13.38%	19	18.31%	26	78
Sidewalks within the park	41.55%	59	14.79%	21	16.20%	23	71
Benches	39.44%	56	12.68%	18	16.90%	24	69
Sidewalks to access the park	38.03%	54	10.56%	15	12.68%	18	65
Programming/ County Sponsored Events	35.21%	50	15.49%	22	19.01%	27	65
Picnic tables	35.21%	50	14.79%	21	17.61%	25	64
Splash pad	25.35%	36	18.31%	26	21.13%	30	59
Community garden	30.99%	44	14.08%	20	16.20%	23	57
Recreation Center	23.94%	34	14.08%	20	17.61%	25	52
Climbing wall	26.06%	37	9.15%	13	12.68%	18	50
Playground sets	24.65%	35	9.15%	13	12.68%	18	47
Barbecue pits	23.24%	33	11.27%	16	9.86%	14	44
Basketball court	14.08%	20	15.49%	22	14.08%	20	40
Volleyball court	14.79%	21	11.27%	16	11.27%	16	37
Skate park	12.68%	18	9.86%	14	11.27%	16	33
Tennis court	14.08%	20	4.93%	7	8.45%	12	30
Softball/ Little League field	9.86%	14	7.75%	11	7.75%	11	27
Soccer field	10.56%	15	11.27%	16	6.34%	9	27
Baseball field	9.86%	14	9.15%	13	8.45%	12	26
Football field	7.04%	10	6.34%	9	3.52%	5	20
Other or notes:							27
						<b>Answered</b>	<b>142</b>
						<b>Skipped</b>	<b>19</b>

Please use the matrix below to identify things you would like to see more of at each of the County Parks you go to. Only answer for the County Parks relevant to you. Select all that apply.





#### Specific answers to question 16

- More fun for kids all ages
- Fishing ponds
- More/longer trails to hike/run.
- Peaceful and quiet running, biking and kayaking park.
- Regular Police patrols!! Both in vehicle and foot or bicycle patrols. Park not safe
- More dog friendly amenities would be nice. I primarily use the parks to exercise my dogs. Especially when the city dog park is still closed by the local tyrants.
- Year round swimming pool.
- It's a "nature" park. So maybe more nature and less amenities
- Please don't mess up bastrop nature park with any concrete structures or playgrounds. Kids can. Learn about nature from nature. Don't junk it up please!!! Nothing needed but rest room and drinking fountain. Occasional benches. Period.
- They can find playgrounds where they can scream and jump around in other areas. You mess this one up and it's gone forever. Please don't. "
- I like for kids to have some activities but I love the peacefulness
- Small stocked fishing lake would be awesome
- Educational signage about the wildlife and nature.
- Off leash pet area.
- Programming.
- nature related displays, habitat restoration areas, nature education
- Butterfly garden
- The current playground set is for mainly toddlers
- I would use the park for walking, nature watching, not other recreation.
- I don't know which park is which
- Bastrop County Nature Park is just fine the way it is. Adding all those other things would take the nature out of the nature park and make it too much like a city park.
- Butterfly or pollinator garden area(s), bluebird houses, other nest boxes.
- Increase features at Cedar Creek.
- It would be great to create a group to Park Clean Up... some rude people litter, however we can work together to keep things clean!
- The homeless invading the park asking for things
- We love our BCNP just as it is
- Volleyball field w/o sand as it gets too hot to use in summer
- Addt'l trails. Current one is only 1/3 mile

**17. If more County sponsored events and programming were created, what kind of events would interest you? Select all that apply.**

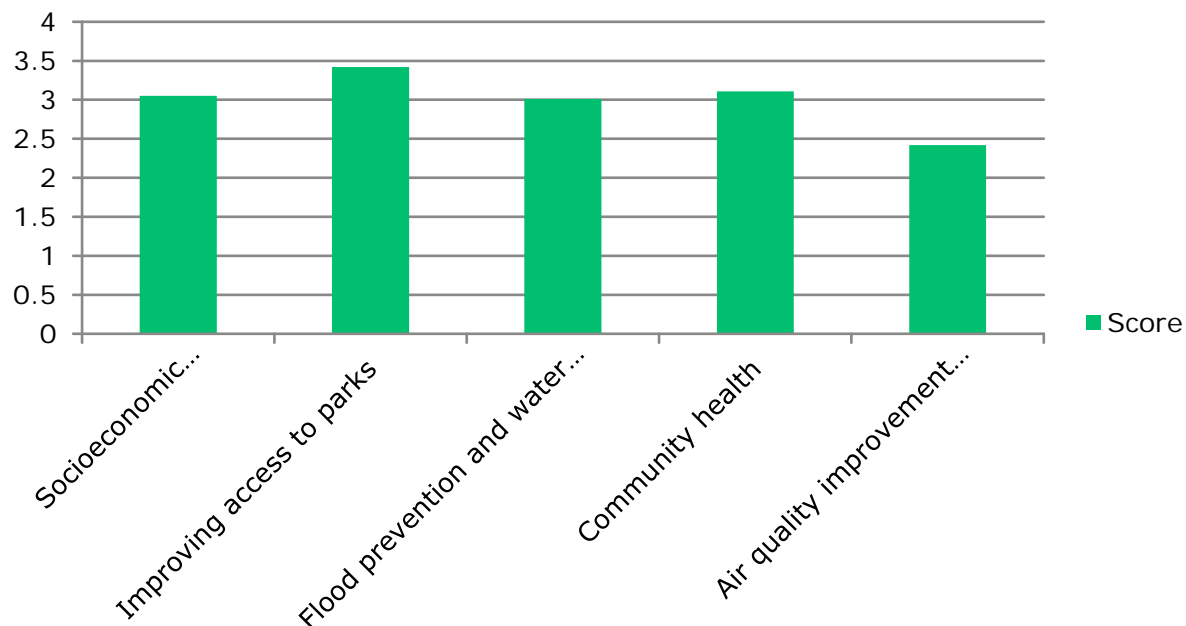
Answer Choices	Responses	
Small concerts	70.00%	105
Food events	62.00%	93
Kids events	44.00%	66
Sports events	20.00%	30
Senior events	34.67%	52
Farmers market	62.67%	94
Other (please specify)	13.33%	20
	Answered	150
	Skipped	11



**18. Please rank the following choices from most important at the top to least important at the bottom on issues that Bastrop County should prioritize when planning for park improvements**

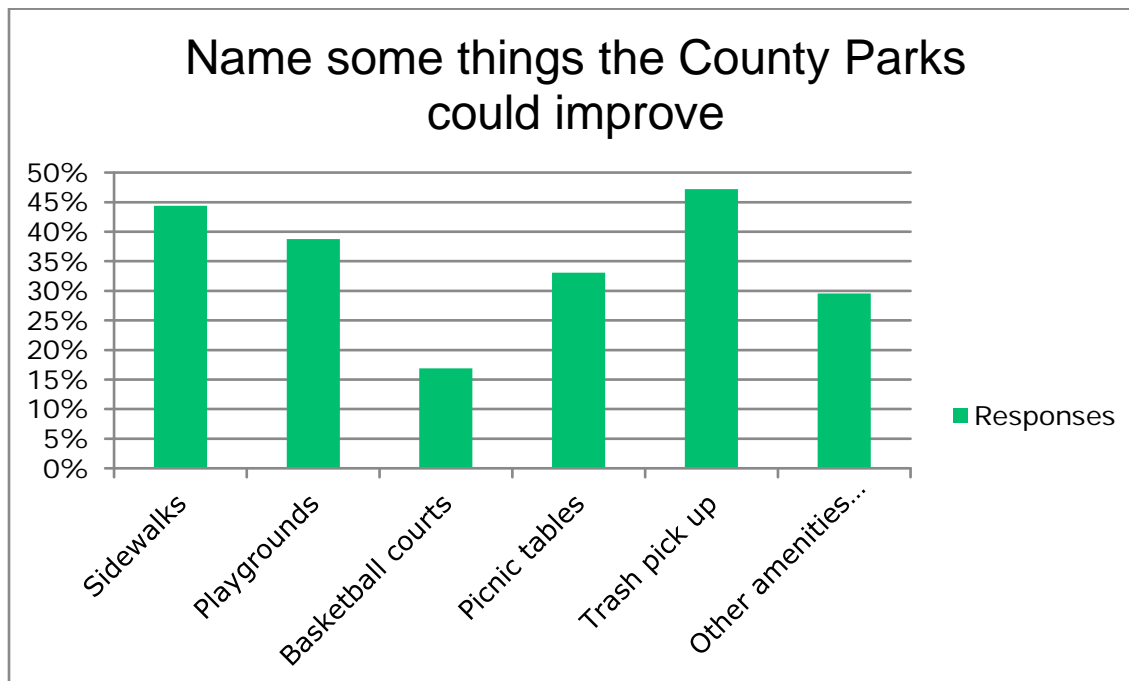
	<b>Total</b>	<b>Score</b>
Socioeconomic vulnerability- prioritize economically and social disadvantaged areas. E.g. ethnic minorities, low income, etc.	151	3.05
Improving access to parks	149	3.42
Flood prevention and water quality improvement	150	3.01
Community health	146	3.11
Air quality improvement and "heat-island" prevention	153	2.42
	Answered	157
	Skipped	4

Please rank the following choices from most important at the top to least important at the bottom on issues that Bastrop County should prioritize when planning for park improvements over the next 10 years.



**19. Name some things the County could improve.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Sidewalks	44.37%	63
Playgrounds	38.73%	55
Basketball courts	16.90%	24
Picnic tables	33.10%	47
Trash pick up	47.18%	67
Other amenities (please specify)	29.58%	42
	Answered	142
	Skipped	19



Specific responses

- Fishing ponds
- Build Recreational Center
- Safety
- Safety
- Water on trails
- Swimming pool
- Don't use anything but nature park. Never would. Don't want to be around children unless they are involved in nature and off the plastic junk



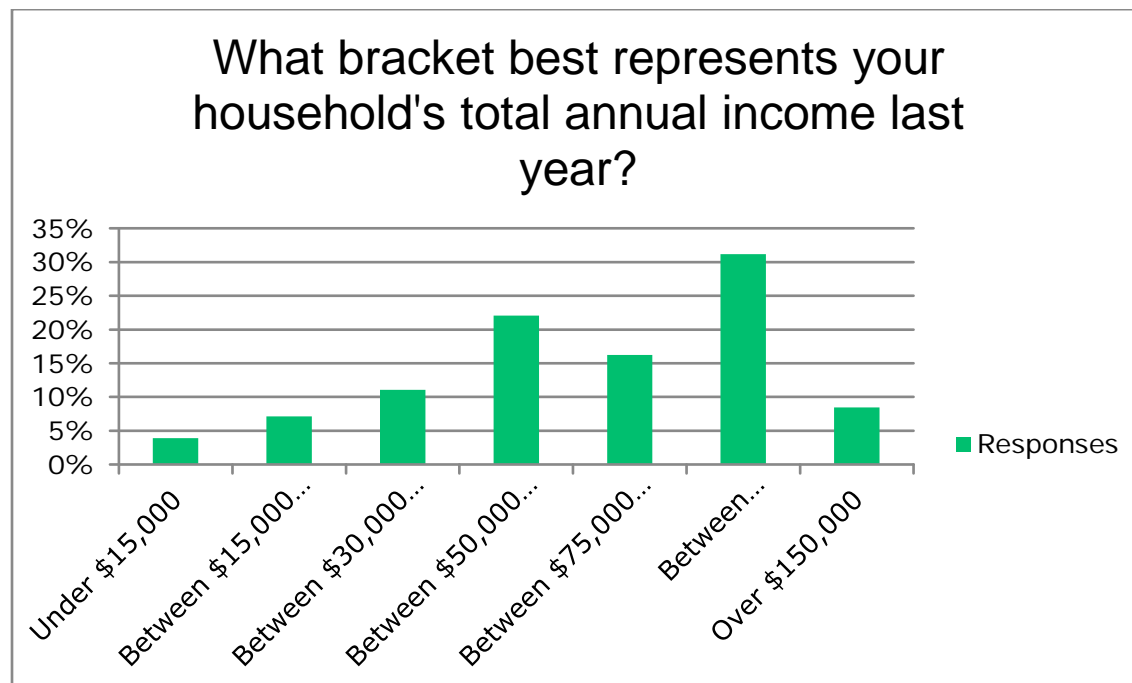
- Small stocked fishing pond with dock
- N/a
- Patrolling by law enforcement
- restrooms
- More of both
- Restrooms
- Swimming pools
- Pickle ball courts
- Opening gates
- Trails
- Programming
- Native habitat - it can be incorporated into the design if it's a typical park setting (sterile, few trees, etc.)
- Bathrooms and add water play area for children. The closest one is the small located in Fisherman's park.
- Security/preventing homeless populations
- trail and parking lot improvements
- Soccer fields
- Law enforcement patrol
- Restrooms, potable water
- Bastrop County Nature Park still has openings in traffic barriers

where vehicles are still getting down on the beach

- Parking
- Don't know as I've never been to one
- Lighting
- Native plants and tree identification as a learning tool.
- Irrigation
- more parks
- Another playground would be good
- pool
- Parking and Safety
- Adding outdoor exercise equipment for adults
- At BCNP - remove some flood debris and create pocket meadows to diversity habitat.
- Trails
- would love to have tennis courts
- Longer trails w/ safe access to creek
- Sports courts, lighting, keeping the homeless from sleeping or loitering
- BATHROOMS

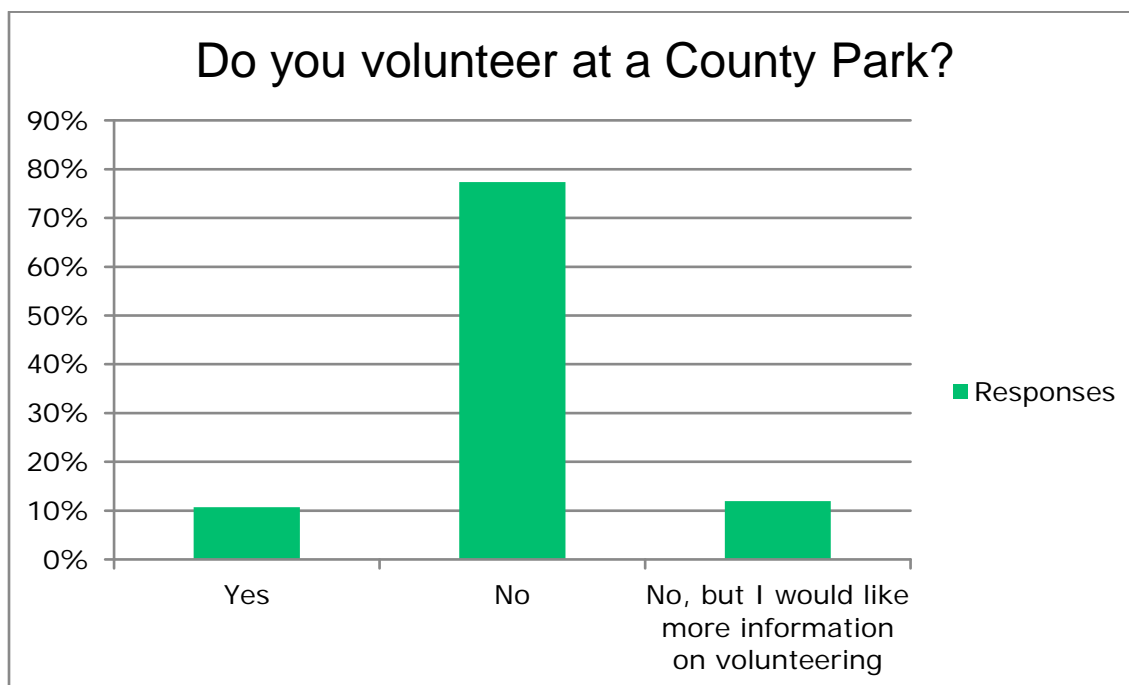
**20. What bracket best represents your household's total annual income last year?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Under \$15,000	3.90%	6
Between \$15,000 and \$29,999	7.14%	11
Between \$30,000 and \$49,999	11.04%	17
Between \$50,000 and \$74,999	22.08%	34
Between \$75,000 and \$99,999	16.23%	25
Between \$100,000 and \$150,000	31.17%	48
Over \$150,000	8.44%	13
	Answered	154
	Skipped	7



## 21. Do you volunteer at a County Park?

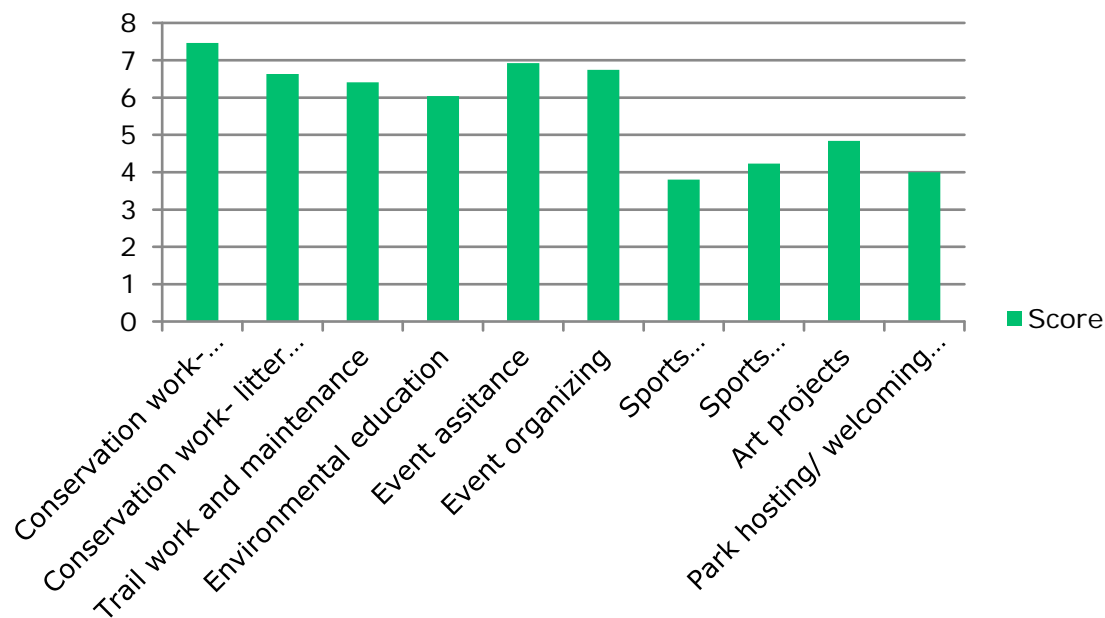
Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	10.69%	17
No	77.36%	123
No, but I would like more information on volunteering	11.95%	19
	Answered	159
	Skipped	2



**22. (Volunteering section) Please rank the following work from what you are most interested in at the top to what you are least interested in at the bottom.**

	Total	Score
Conservation work- gardening	29	7.46
Conservation work- litter pick up/ recycling	28	6.63
Trail work and maintenance	30	6.41
Environmental education	28	6.04
Event assistance	26	6.92
Event organizing	28	6.74
Sports coaching/refereeing- adults	26	3.8
Sports coaching/refereeing- youth	27	4.23
Art projects	26	4.84
Park hosting/ welcoming and assisting the public	28	4
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130

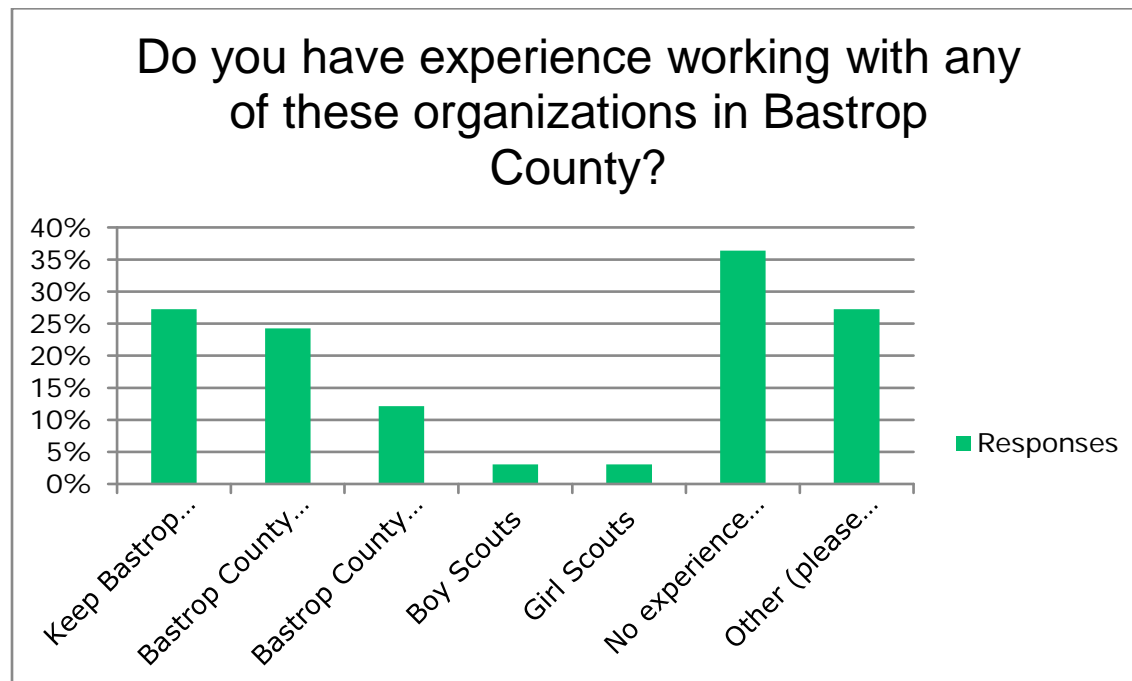
Please rank the following work from what you are most interested in at the top to what you are least interested in at the bottom.





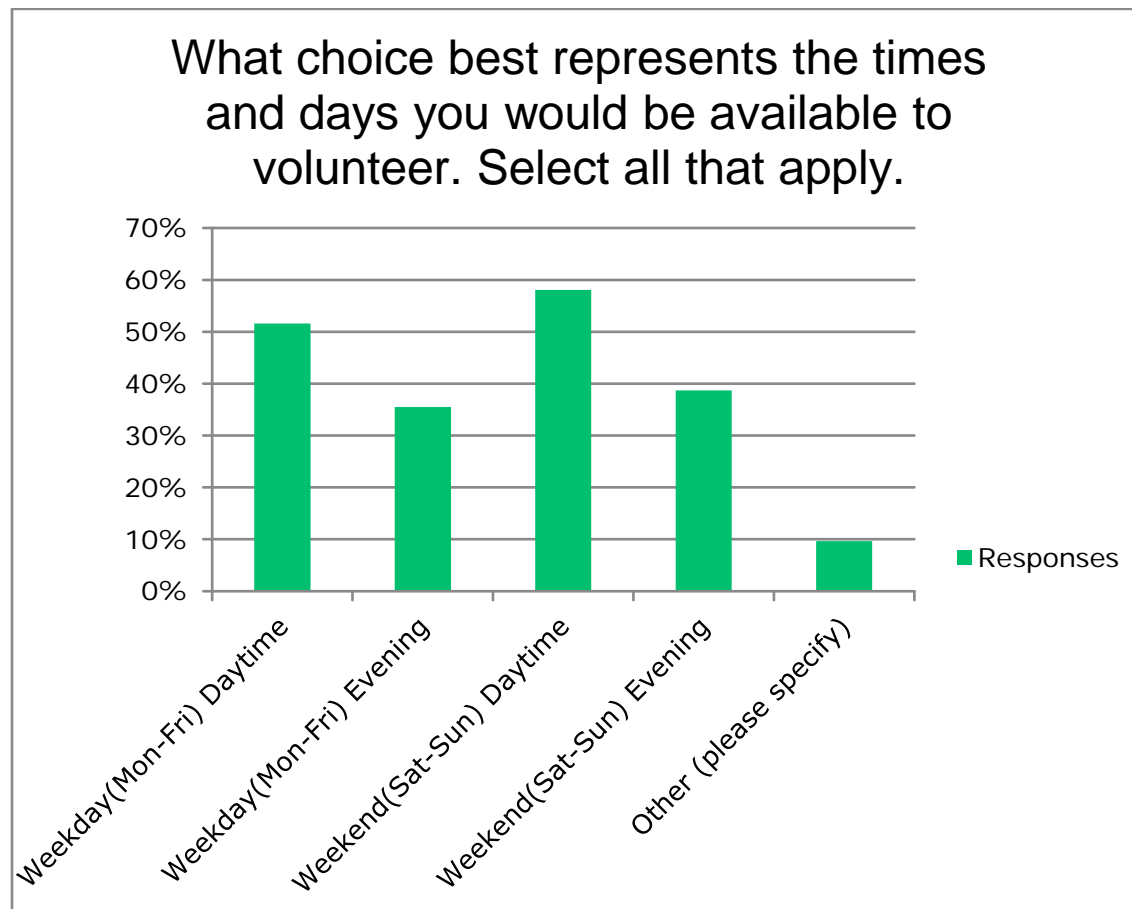
**23. Do you have experience working with any of these organizations in Bastrop County?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Keep Bastrop County Beautiful	27.27%	9
Bastrop County Master Naturalists	24.24%	8
Bastrop County Master Gardeners	12.12%	4
Boy Scouts	3.03%	1
Girl Scouts	3.03%	1
No experience with any Bastrop County volunteering	36.36%	12
Other (please specify)	27.27%	9
	Answered	33
	Skipped	128



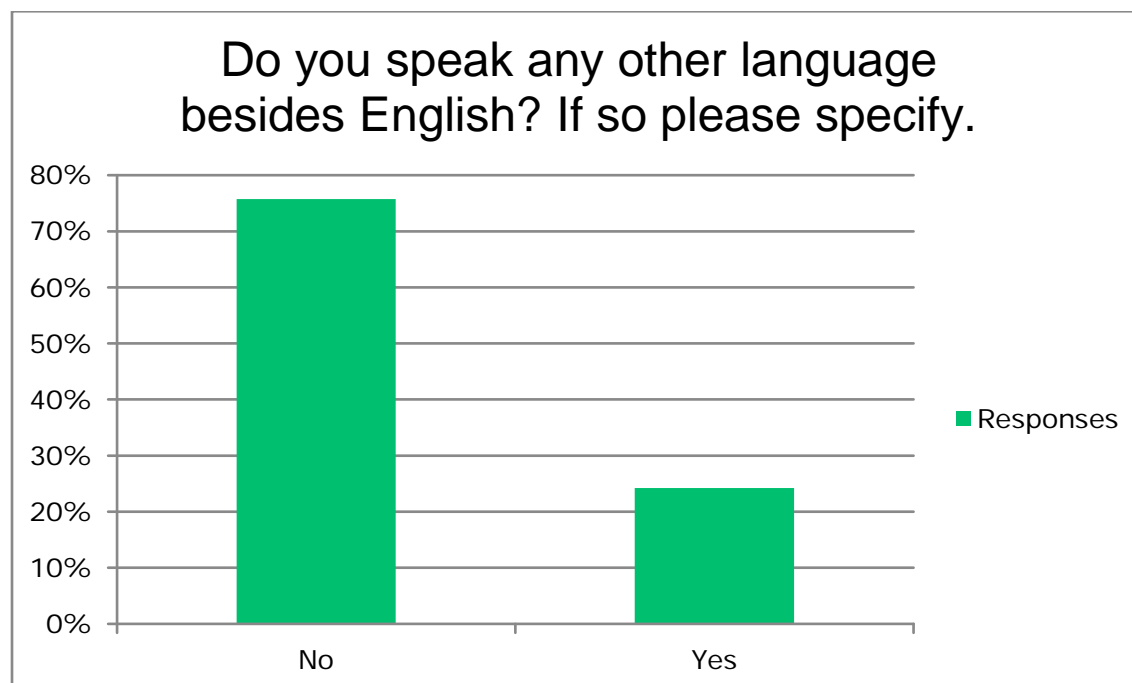
**24. What choice best represents the times and days you would be available to volunteer. Select all that apply.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Weekday(Mon-Fri) Daytime	51.61%	16
Weekday(Mon-Fri) Evening	35.48%	11
Weekend(Sat-Sun) Daytime	58.06%	18
Weekend(Sat-Sun) Evening	38.71%	12
Other (please specify)	9.68%	3
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130



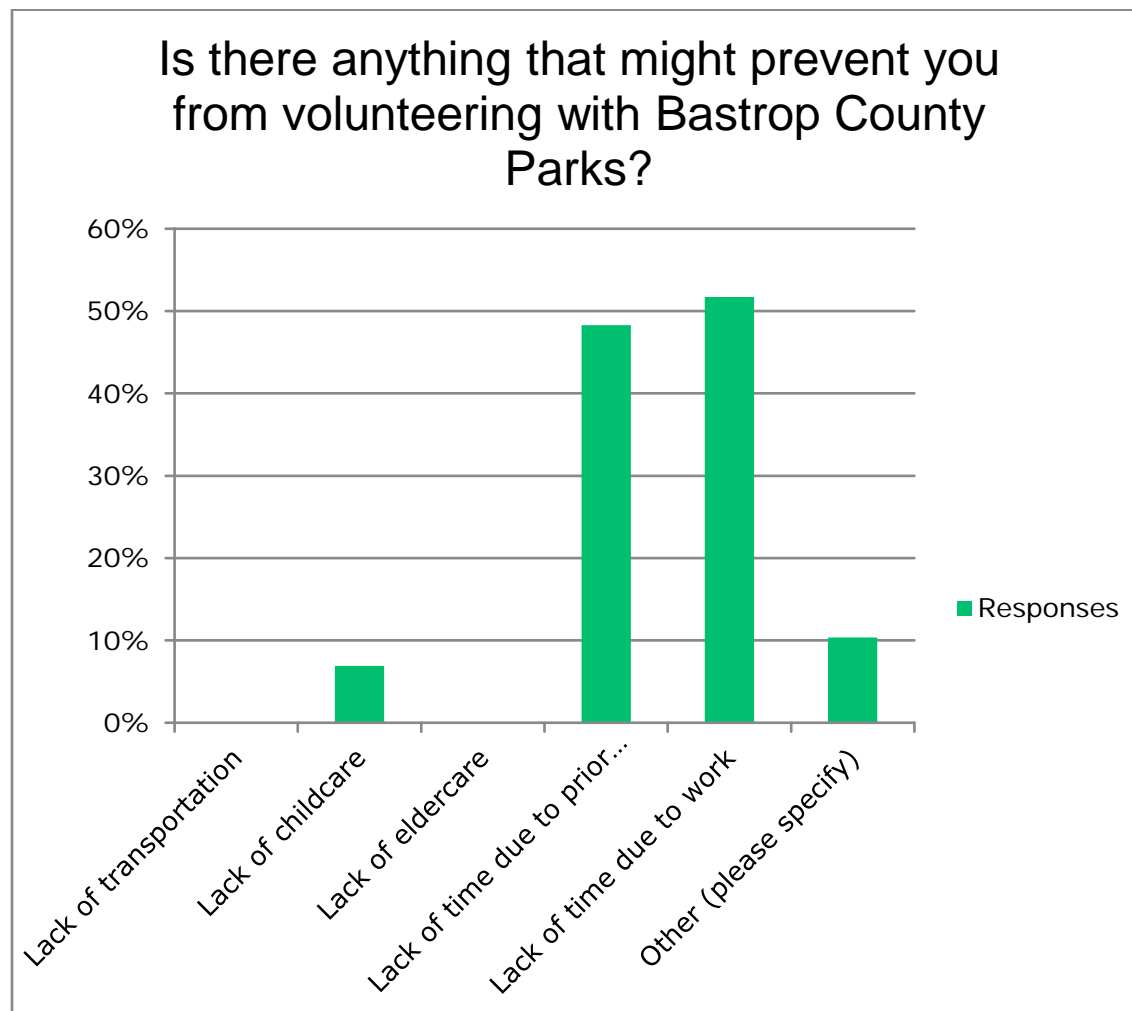
**25. Do you speak any other language besides English? If so please specify.**

Answer Choices	Responses	
No	75.76%	25
Yes	24.24%	8
(please specify)		6
	Answered	33
	Skipped	128



**26. Is there anything that might prevent you from volunteering with Bastrop County Parks?**

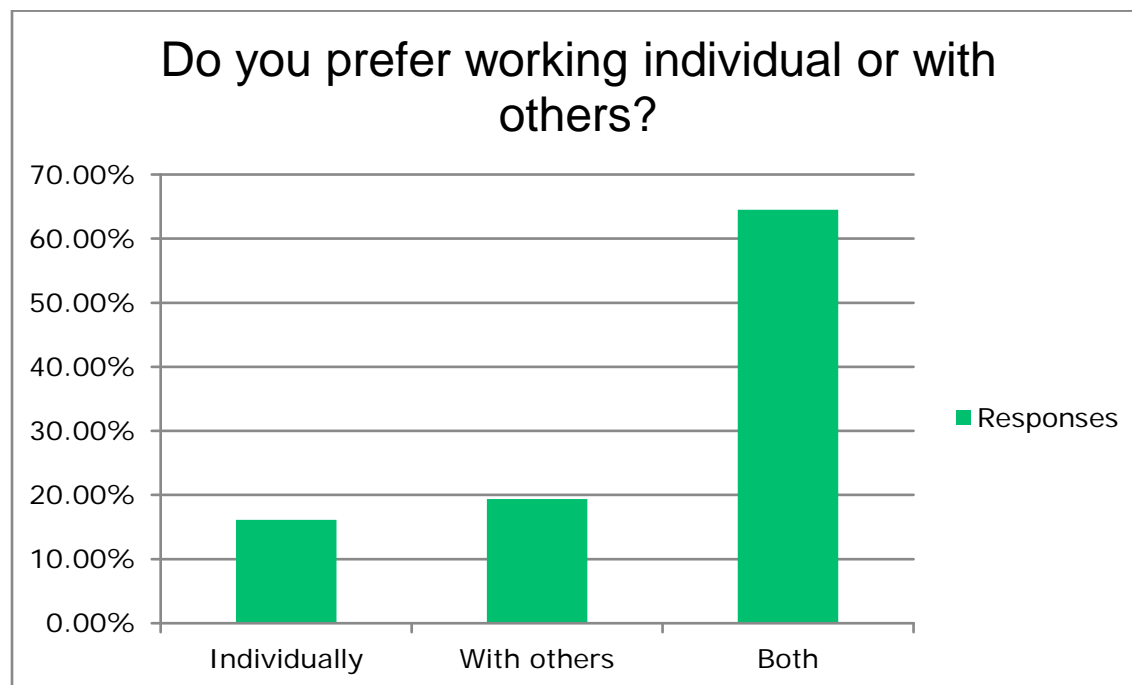
Answer Choices	Responses	
Lack of transportation	0.00%	0
Lack of childcare	6.90%	2
Lack of eldercare	0.00%	0
Lack of time due to prior commitments	48.28%	14
Lack of time due to work	51.72%	15
Other (please specify)	10.34%	3
	Answered	29
	Skipped	132





## 27. Do you prefer working individually or with others?

Answer Choices	Responses	
Individually	16.13%	5
With others	19.35%	6
Both	64.52%	20
	Answered	31
	Skipped	130



**28. Would you be interested in any trainings provided to Bastrop County Park volunteers?**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Yes	73.33%	22
No	20.00%	6
If yes (please specify)	6.67%	2
	Answered	30
	Skipped	131



Specific responses

- Trail maintenance
- Leading nature or bird hikes, any other training

**29. Do you have any feedback or know of additional resources that Bastrop County Parks should be aware of to run a successful volunteer program?**

- Dedicated staff
- More fun
- Community badly needs understanding of these aged trees as a resource needing protected. 400 year old trees can be killed with improper use of chemicals. (Weeds and feed on lawns around post oaks for instance, as post packs are technically weeds)
- Appreciation for the natural habitats to protect it at home and in park usage.
- Contact the Lost Pines Chapter, Texas Master Naturalists
- I know the Master Naturalists do a lot of volunteering. Maybe Master Gardeners do, too? Also Bastrop County Cares. Reaching out to the high schools, there might be a good number of students that would be interested in volunteer projects.
- The County should identify and interface with organizations/groups that have service requirements, including some high schools. Getting volunteers and keeping them active requires motivation, which in turn requires meaningful engagement (making a difference on something that matters). Good organization, adequate support (training, clear tasks/roles, engaging leadership), structure/with flexibility and feedback/recognition help.

## Bastrop County Open Space Master Plan Update

### September Public Meetings Summary

Bastrop County and the National Park Service Rivers, Trails and Conservation Assistance program hosted two digital public meetings in late September 2020 to gather public feedback that will guide the update of the Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan. The first meeting was held on Wednesday, September 23 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, and the second on Thursday, September 24 from 2:30 to 4:30 pm.

The meetings included attendees from Bastrop County, Bastrop County Cares, Texas AgriLife, Texas Parks and Wildlife, Pines and Prairies Land Trust, as well as residents of Bastrop, Cedar Creek, Double Eagle Ranch, Elgin

The first hour of the meetings consisted of a presentation reviewing the current conditions of Bastrop County parks and the master plan update process. It included the following sections:

Section	Presenter
Welcome/Introductions	Gibran Lule (NPS) / County Judge Pape
State of the County Parks	Shawn Harris (Bastrop County)
Overview of 2001-2011 Master Plan	Julia Cleary (Bastrop County)
Overview of Master Plan Update Process	Julia Cleary (Bastrop County)
Survey Results	Sydney Garcia / Gibran Lule (NPS)
Green Infrastructure	Josh Tuck (NPS)
County Park System Interviews	Sydney Garcia (NPS)

The last hour of the meetings consisted of interactive sections, where attendees were encouraged to provide feedback through polling, written comments, and open discussion.

#### Interactive / Feedback (60 min)

Item	Goal	Format
Master Plan Goals	Review eight goals for master plan update and poll attendees on their opinion of each.	Polling and open discussion
Project Ranking Criteria	Review sixteen project ranking criteria and poll attendees on their opinion on each.	Polling and open discussion
Potential Partners and Volunteer Organizations	Brainstorm additional community partners and organizations to consult for planning, volunteering, and implementation.	Facilitated brainstorm



## Master Plan Goals

Participants reviewed the eight goals proposed for the master plan update and voted on each. After voting, participants were able to share comments and propose changes through audio or the chat box.

### Goals:

- **Goal 1.** Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents.
- **Goal 2.** Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations.
- **Goal 3.** Public recreation should be integrated with all public services
- **Goal 4.** Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation.
- **Goal 5.** Park planning should be coordinated with new development.
- **Goal 6.** Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts.
- **Goal 7.** Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community.
- **Goal 8.** Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system.

### Voting options:

- a. Great
- b. Good, but could use some changes
- c. Needs major changes
- d. I don't like this goal at all

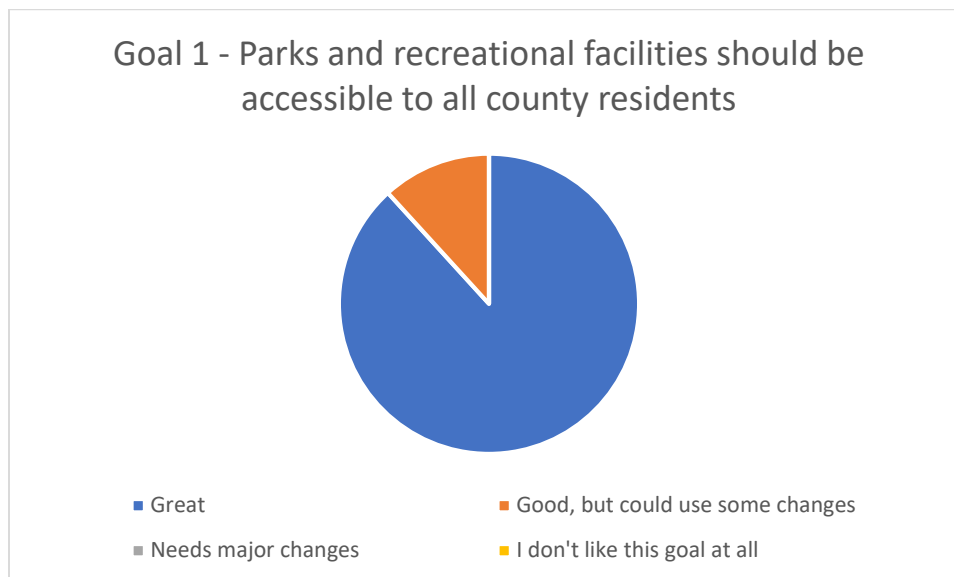
## Polling Results and Comments

### Goal 1.0

#### Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents

- **Objective 1.1** All recreational facilities should be designed to provide access regardless of age, sex, income, cultural differences, location in the county, and handicap status.
- **Objective 1.2** Parks should be developed in tandem with incorporated communities so that existing resources can be leveraged to address the recreational deficiencies of rural residents
- **Objective 1.3** Parks planning should take into account population distribution and growth in the county so new parks can be placed where the population concentrations are the highest.
- **Objective 1.4** Where feasible, all parks should be equipped with sufficient supporting amenities such as bathrooms and accessible parking.

Goal 1 - Parks and recreational facilities should be accessible to all county residents	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	7	8	15	88.24%
Good, but could use some changes	2	0	2	11.76%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>17</b>	



#### Comments:

- Keep equity in mind

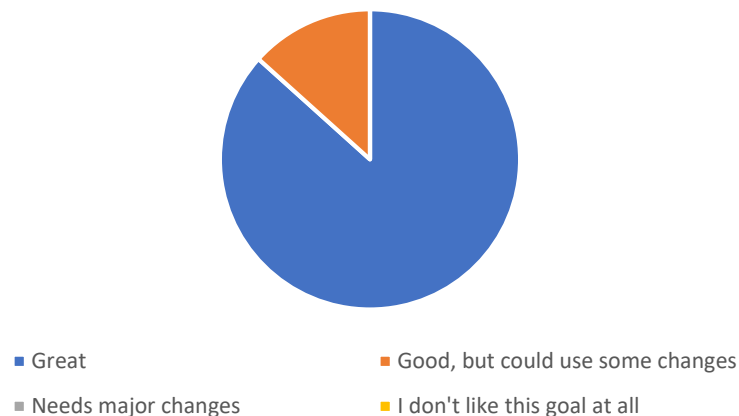
## Goal 2.0

### Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations.

- **Objective 2.1** Parks should be integrated with the preservation of endangered species including, but not limited to, the Houston Toad and the Eastern Blue Jay.
- **Objective 2.2** Interpretive displays and other educational displays need to be incorporated with parks so that future generations do not lose the Bastrop legacy of its natural resources such as the Lost Pines.
- **Objective 2.3** Wetland and native species preservation should be considered during the acquisition and development of County Parks.

Goal 2 - Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	8	5	13	86.67%
Good, but could use some changes	1	1	2	13.33%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	

Goal 2 - Open spaces and natural habitats should be preserved for future generations



#### Comments:

- Correction: eastern blue jay should be eastern bluebird
- Include other declining species like cougars, bobcats, armadillos
- Important to include environmental education in master plan
- 2.2 is the most important - interactive interpretive displays build a love of space in young children which starts their passion for nature early

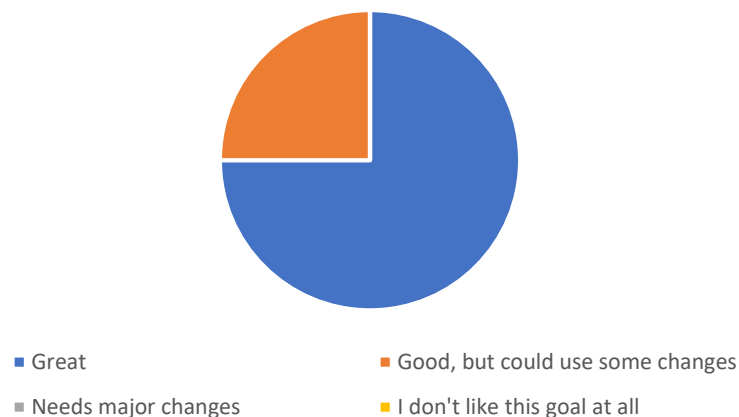
### Goal 3.0

#### Public recreation should be integrated with all public services

- **Objective 3.1** Park planning and management should be coordinated with the Sheriff's Department to ensure the safety of existing and future parks.
- **Objective 3.2** All transportation programs need to be linked to facilitating access to future County Parks. Transportation services need to be considered for residents who live in outlying areas.
- **Objective 3.3** The County should promote active transportation by identifying sidewalk projects which will link existing parks to nearby neighborhoods.
- **Objective 3.4** The County should develop partnerships with existing recreation providers to provide programming opportunities
- 

Goal 3 - Public recreation should be integrated with all public services	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	6	12	75.00%
Good, but could use some changes	3	1	4	25.00%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>16</b>	

Goal 3 - Public recreation should be integrated with all public services



#### Comments:

- Sidewalk construction is an expensive and difficult goal that may be unrealistic
- The majority of population in the county are closer to city parks than county parks currently
- Safety and security should come from within the community
  - community watch with leads
  - community mentors for previously incarcerated or at-risk groups
- Specify departments/organizations other than the sheriff's department for security
- Ensure parks are a welcoming gathering space, not punitive places
- Include connections with Public Health officials or local Hospitals (ParksRx)
- Integration of bike signage and bike lanes



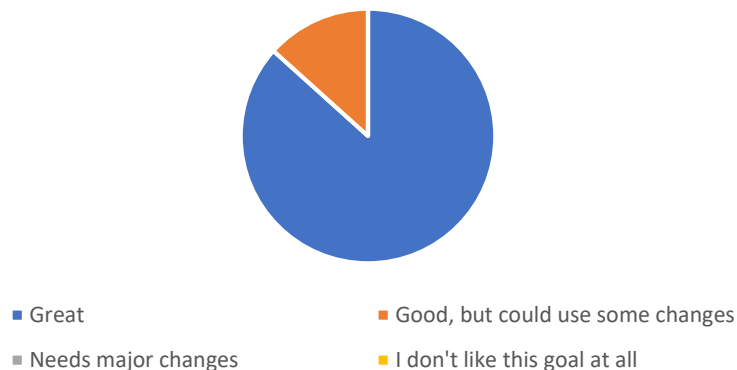
#### Goal 4.0

##### Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation

- **Objective 4.1** With limited financial resources, the County needs to consider joint venturing with incorporated communities, school districts, State installations and other non-governmental community organizations so that their resources can be leveraged to provide recreational opportunities in the County.
- **Objective 4.2** The County should coordinate with other public entities to identify surplus land that can be used for park development

Goal 4 - Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	8	5	13	86.67%
Good, but could use some changes	0	2	2	13.33%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>15</b>	

##### Goal 4 - Public recreation should be coordinated with other community recreation providers to avoid duplication and promote innovation



#### Comments:

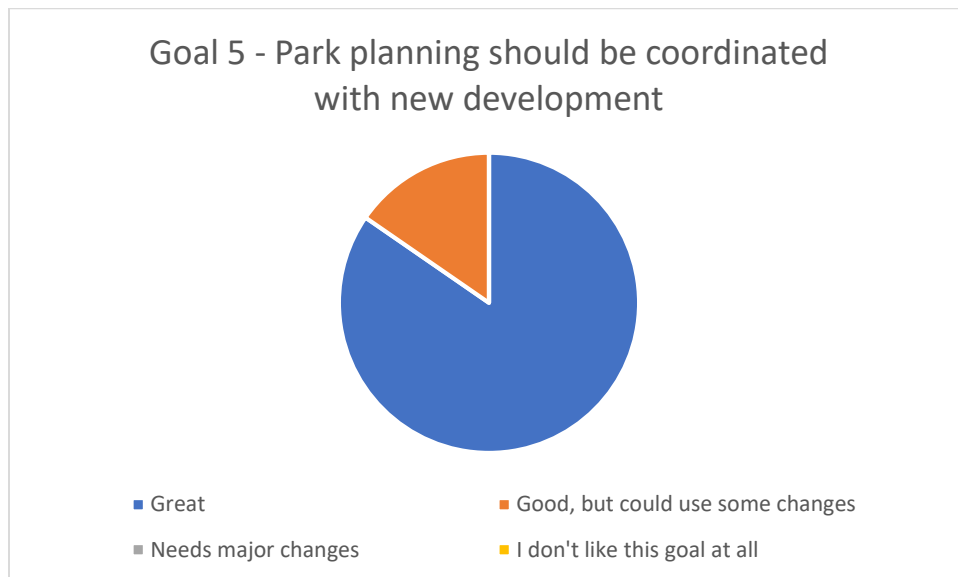
- Consider bike share system
- Not necessary to avoid duplication if it is serving community more fully

## Goal 5.0

### Park planning should be coordinated with new development

- **Objective 5.1** As appropriate, the County should collaborate with developers to provide for the recreational needs of the future residents. The County should be open to accepting appropriate park and open space dedication in new subdivision plats.
- **Objective 5.2** Flood plains make ideal locations for open space recreational activities – the County should consider park and open space opportunities in the floodplain when approving new subdivisions and when contemplating buyouts for flood mitigation purposes.
- **Objective 5.3** Not all parkland is created equal – the County should develop a “Parkland Acceptance Policy” that identifies the criteria for accepting new parkland into the County system which considers both the long term maintenance burden on the County and the potential benefits to the wider community.

Goal 5 - Park planning should be coordinated with new development	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	5	11	84.62%
Good, but could use some changes	0	2	2	15.38%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	6	7	13	



#### Comments:

- County should be able to monitor where parks are developed and ensure they are open to community
- Should we consider staying outside of the floodplain to prevent increased maintenance costs due to flooding/climate change?
- There are low-impact, low-development uses for areas in floodplains compatible with and resilient to flood events
- 5.3 is very important – consider fees in lieu of land if it is an option

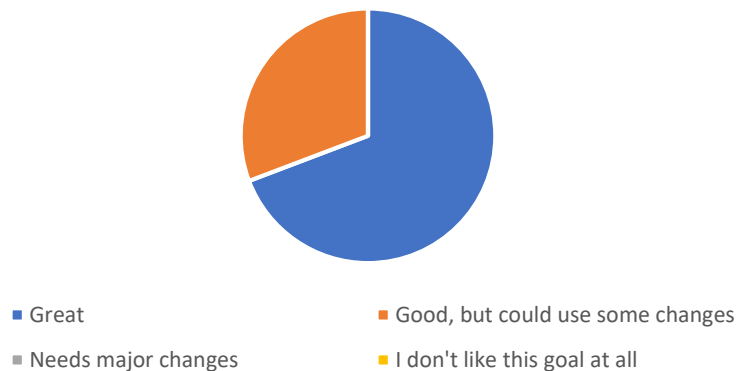
## Goal 6.0

### Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts.

- **Objective 6.1** Parks and recreation facilities are economic development issues that affect a company or industry's locational decisions – the County should partner with organizations that will promote activities in the park and attract visitors, and clearly market all of its parks to the public.
- **Objective 6.2** Broadband development is critical to the economic resiliency of unincorporated Bastrop County. County parks should provide Wi-Fi connectivity to the public.
- **Objective 6.3** Bastrop County Parks should enhance and maintain public access to, and stewardship of, the Colorado River.

Goal 6 - Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	3	9	69.23%
Good, but could use some changes	2	2	4	30.77%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>13</b>	

Goal 6 - Parks and recreational planning should be incorporated into tourism and economic development efforts



#### Comments:

- Consider which parks have wi-fi (prioritize for parks in communities with limited internet connectivity, but reconsider in parks meant to remain natural or undeveloped)
- There is a group in Austin that focuses on wireless internet systems for parks. Should meet with them to see if systems can be used in Bastrop.
- Prioritize wireless internet connectivity as ten-year master plan should look to the future to remain relevant and it is a key utility for access and economic development.
- Wi-fi in the park would encourage families to visit parks more frequently and stay longer, while also allowing them to connect to nature discovery and citizen science apps

## Goal 7.0

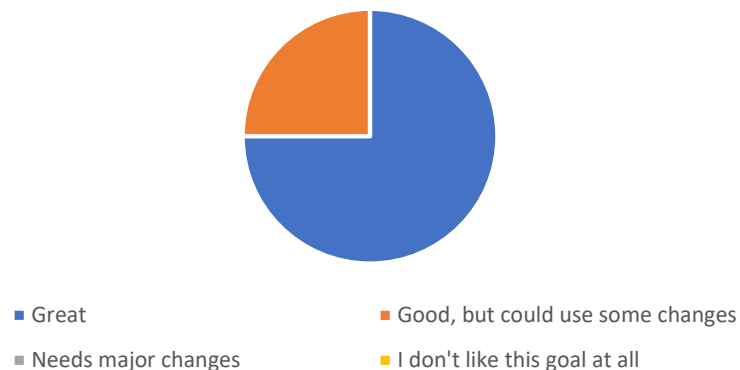
**Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community.**

- **Objective 7.1** Parks need to be sensitive to the special contributions made by certain population groups in the county.
- **Objective 7.2** Special occasions or festivals that celebrate events in the County should be incorporated into park planning.

•

Goal 7 - Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	5	4	9	75.00%
Good, but could use some changes	2	1	3	25.00%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>12</b>	

Goal 7 - Parks and recreational programs must find ways to celebrate the variety of cultures within the community



### Comments:

- Objective 7.2 should include promotion of events
- Clarify objective 7.1
  - "Parks need to be sensitive to the cultural contributions made by all population groups in the county."



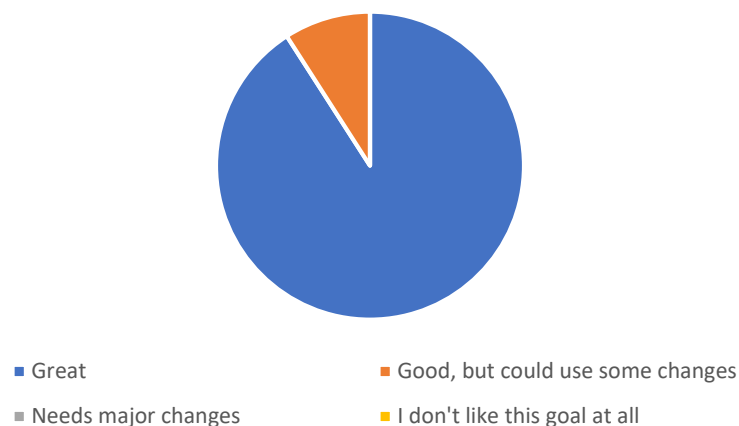
## Goal 8.0

**Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system.**

- **Objective 8.1** The Department of General Services should be renamed “Department of Parks and General Services” to clearly identify its role within the maintenance and management of existing and future County parks.
- **Objective 8.2** Fund raising for parks and recreational programs needs to be an ongoing effort.
- **Objective 8.3** Volunteers are critical to the long term sustainability of the Parks system. Bastrop County should establish and support a network of volunteers in partnership with local nonprofits, and develop a “Park Host” program to assist in the maintenance and security of the park system.

Goal 8 - Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Great	6	4	10	90.91%
Good, but could use some changes	1	0	1	9.09%
Needs major changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't like this goal at all	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	

Goal 8 - Bastrop County needs to put appropriate organizational mechanisms in place to ensure the long term sustainability of the County Parks system



### Comments:

- Volunteers are critical. Utilize platforms like Bastrop County Connects to build volunteer base.
- Support for “Parks and General Services” name change
- Learn from and build Stony Point Park’s informal park host program

## Project Ranking Criteria

Participants reviewed the sixteen proposed criteria for ranking potential parks projects to be included in the master plan update and voted on each. After voting, participants were able to share comments and propose changes through audio or the chat box.

### Criteria

Number	Criteria	Goal	Proposed Weighting
1	Project provides an essential amenity in the park.	1	5
2	The project provides a new facility in an underserved area	1	15
3	The project will actively support or restore sensitive ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for natural resources, including the Houston Toad.	2	10
4	Project will promote active transportation by providing bike/ped infrastructure linking parkland to nearby residential neighborhoods and/or other parks.	3	5
5	Project will improve public safety within the parks.	3	5
6	The project will be undertaken in partnership with another organization.	4	10
7	Project will have a positive impact on the floodplain	5	10
8	The project will promote broadband connectivity within the parks.	6	5
9	The project will promote Tourism within Bastrop County	6	5
10	The project will enhance access to the Colorado River	6	5
11	The project actively protects and increases awareness of existing cultural resources	7	5
12	Project has a low ongoing maintenance requirement	8	5
13	Project will improve the efficiency and sustainability of park operations	8	5
14	Project is identified as a Top 10 need in the Bastrop County Parks Survey	n/a	10
15	Project improves facilities already located within an existing park.	n/a	5
16	Project does not require additional utility hookups (with the exception of “essential amenities”)	n/a	5
		Total	<b>110</b>

### Voting options:

- Good as is
- Should be weighted lower
- Should be weighted higher
- Needs some changes
- I don't think this criterion should be included

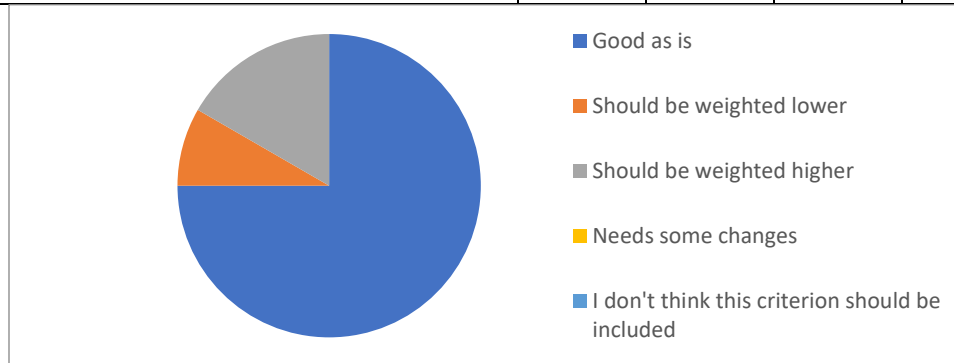
## Polling results and comments

### Criterion 1

**Project provides an essential amenity in the park (bathrooms, parking, waste infrastructure).**

*Draft weighting: 5 points*

Criterion 1	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	4	9	75.00%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	8.33%
Should be weighted higher	0	2	2	16.67%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	6	6	12	

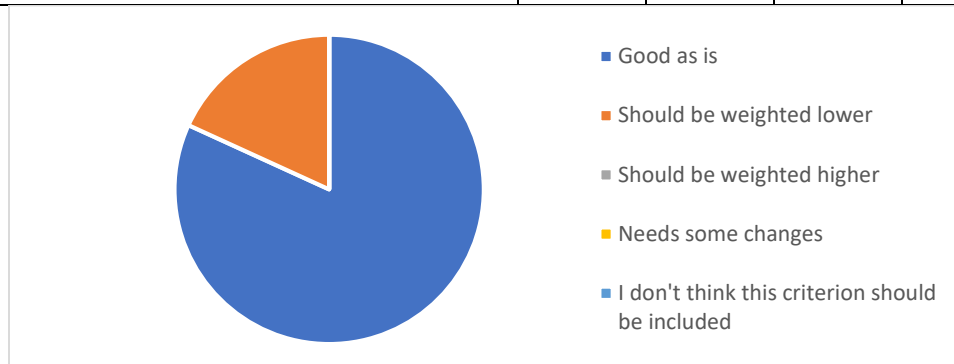


### Criterion 2

**The project provides a new facility in an underserved area**

*Draft weighting: 15 points*

Criterion 2	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	81.82%
Should be weighted lower	1	1	2	18.18%
Should be weighted higher	0	0	0	0.00%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	5	6	11	

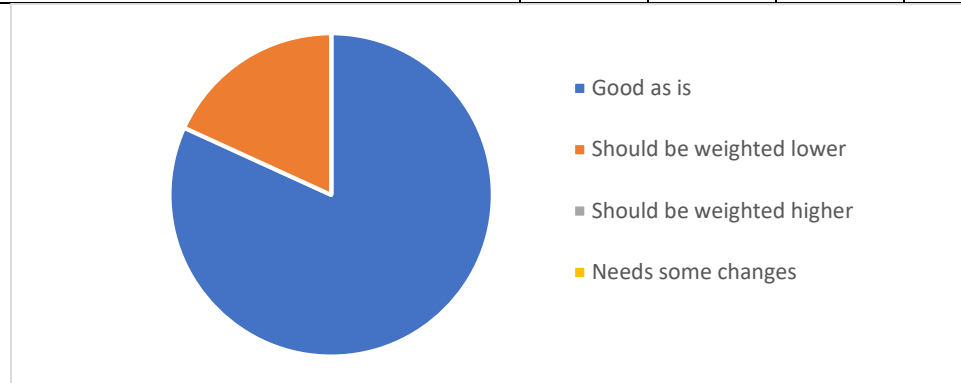


### Criterion 3

The project will actively support or restore sensitive ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for natural resources, including the Houston Toad.

Draft weighting: 10 points

Criterion 3	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	81.82%
Should be weighted lower	1	1	2	18.18%
Should be weighted higher	0	0	0	0.00%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	



Comments:

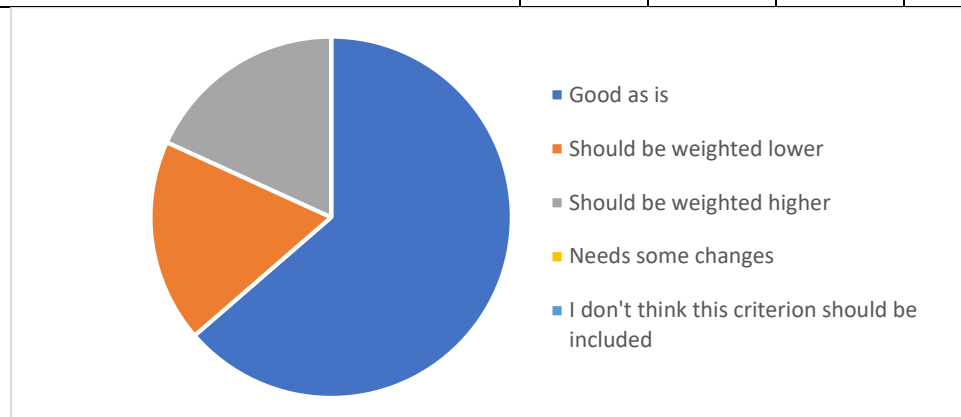
- Change to read “including endangered species”

### Criterion 4

Project will promote active transportation by providing bike/ ped infrastructure linking parkland to nearby residential neighborhoods and/or other parks.

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 4	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	3	4	7	63.64%
Should be weighted lower	2	0	2	18.18%
Should be weighted higher	0	2	2	18.18%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>11</b>	



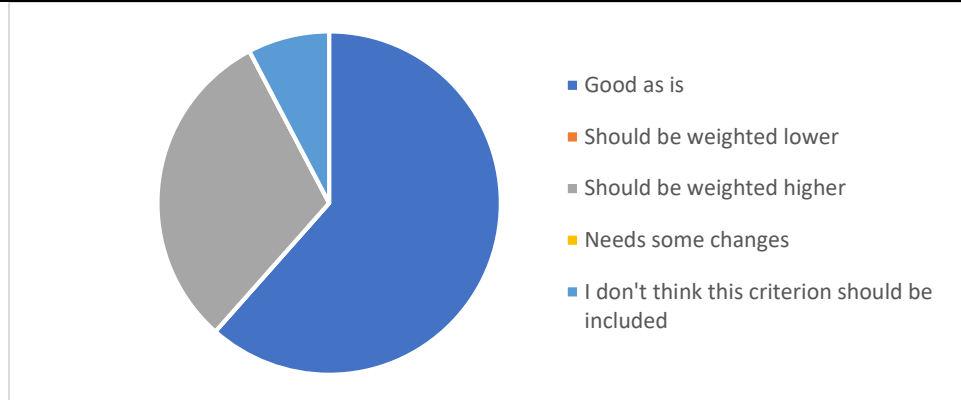


### Criterion 5

**Project will improve public safety within the parks.**

*Draft weighting: 5 points*

Criterion 5	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	4	8	61.54%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	2	2	4	30.77%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	1	0	1	7.69%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	

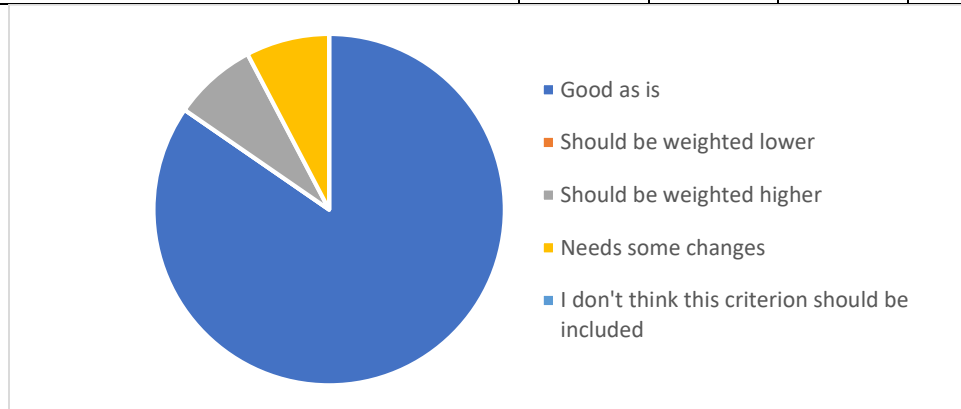


### Criterion 6

**The project will be undertaken in partnership with another organization.**

*Draft weighting: 10 points*

Criterion 6	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	6	11	84.62%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	1	0	1	7.69%
Needs some changes	1	0	1	7.69%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	



Comments:

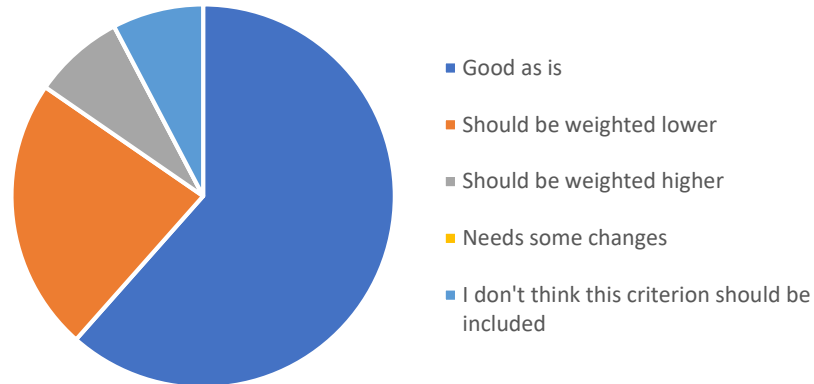
- Should consider if project/proposal includes details on funding and maintenance from other organization

### Criterion 7

Project will have a positive impact on the floodplain

Draft weighting: 10 points

Criterion 7	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	3	8	61.54%
Should be weighted lower	1	2	3	23.08%
Should be weighted higher	0	1	1	7.69%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	1	0	1	7.69%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	

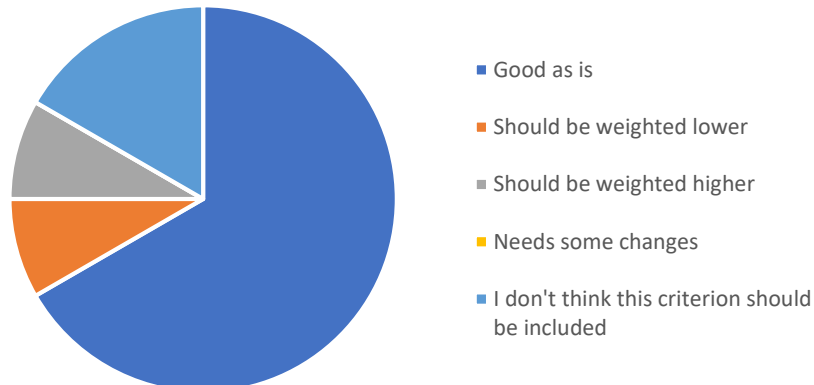


### Criterion 8

The project will promote broadband connectivity within the parks.

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 8	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	5	3	8	66.67%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	8.33%
Should be weighted higher	0	1	1	8.33%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	2	2	16.67%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	

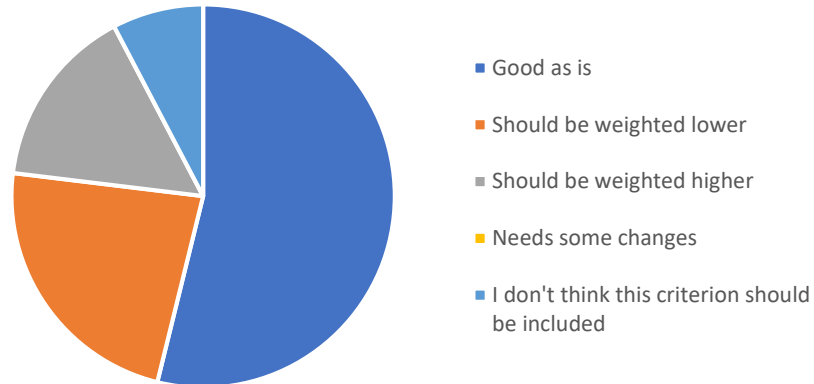


### Criterion 9

#### The project will promote tourism within Bastrop County

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 9	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	3	7	53.85%
Should be weighted lower	2	1	3	23.08%
Should be weighted higher	1	1	2	15.38%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	1	1	7.69%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	

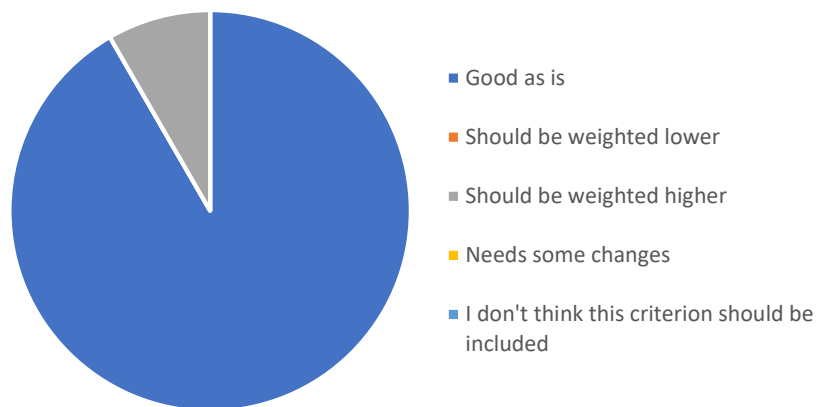


### Criterion 10

#### The project will enhance access to the Colorado River

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 10	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	6	5	11	91.67%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	0	1	1	8.33%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	

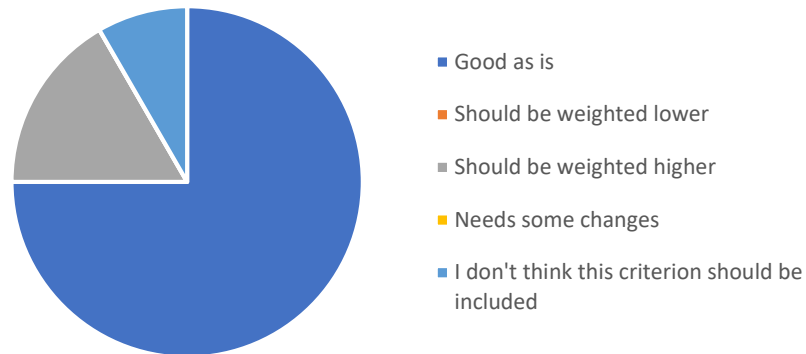


### Criterion 11

#### The project actively protects and increases awareness of existing cultural resources

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 11	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	75.00%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	1	1	2	16.67%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	1	0	1	8.33%
<b>Total voters</b>	6	6	12	

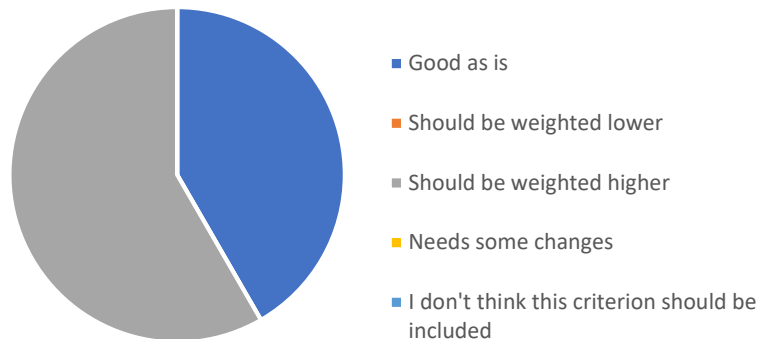


### Criterion 12

#### Project has a low ongoing maintenance requirement

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 12	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	2	3	5	41.67%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	4	3	7	58.33%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	6	6	12	



Comments:

- Important consideration; should be weighted way higher

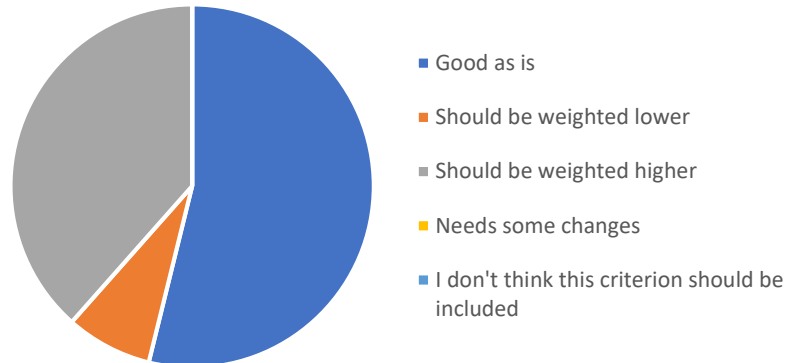


### Criterion 13

#### Project will improve the efficiency and sustainability of park operations

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 13	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	3	4	7	53.85%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	7.69%
Should be weighted higher	3	2	5	38.46%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	

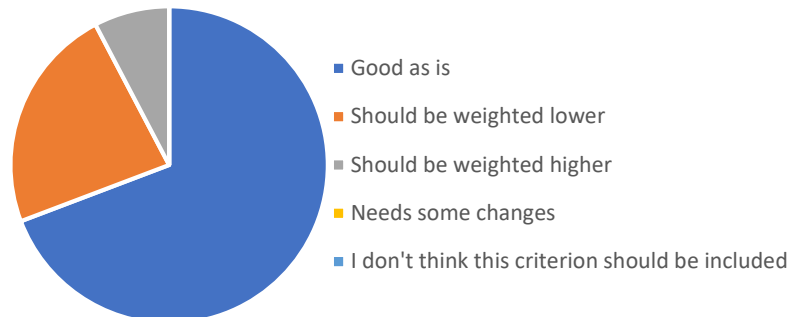


### Criterion 14

#### Project is identified as a Top 10 need in the Bastrop County Parks Survey

Draft weighting: 10 points

Criterion 14	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	69.23%
Should be weighted lower	2	1	3	23.08%
Should be weighted higher	1	0	1	7.69%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	0	0	0.00%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	



Comment:

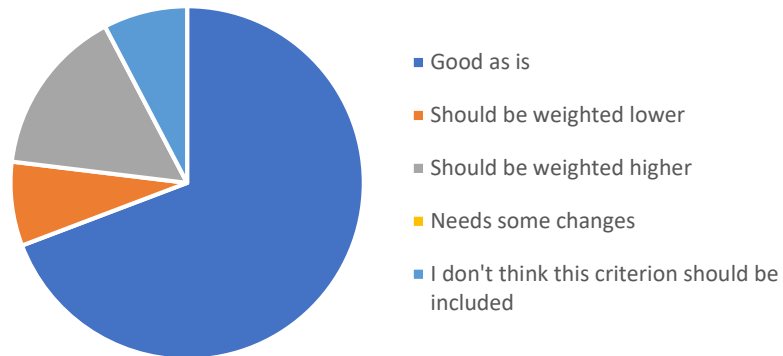
- Should have park survey every year to ensure identified projects reflect community's current desires.

### Criterion 15

Project improves facilities already located within an existing park.

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 15	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	5	9	69.23%
Should be weighted lower	1	0	1	7.69%
Should be weighted higher	2	0	2	15.38%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	1	1	7.69%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>13</b>	

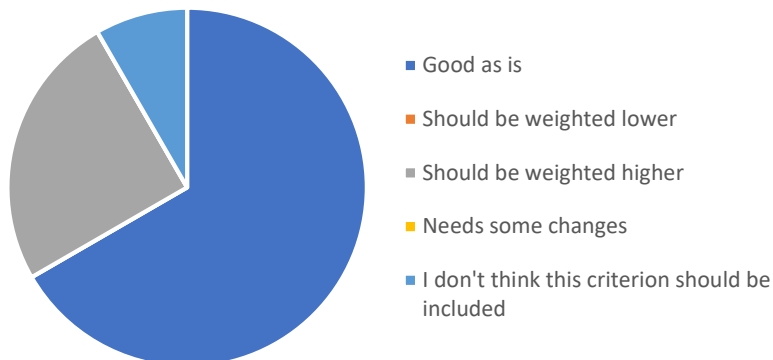


### Criterion 16

Project does not require additional utility hookups (with the exception of “essential amenities” [bathrooms, parking, waste infrastructure])

Draft weighting: 5 points

Criterion 16	23-Sep	24-Sep	Total	Percent
Good as is	4	4	8	66.67%
Should be weighted lower	0	0	0	0.00%
Should be weighted higher	2	1	3	25.00%
Needs some changes	0	0	0	0.00%
I don't think this criterion should be included	0	1	1	8.33%
<b>Total voters</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>12</b>	



## Potential Partners and Volunteer Organizations

During the last portion of the meeting, attendees were presented with a list of organizations already working with the county on parks and the master plan update (Fig. 1). Participants were then asked if they knew of additional potential partners to assist with planning, volunteering efforts, or outreach. The participants on the September 24 meeting generated the list below (Fig. 2).

Fig 1: Groups Already Involved

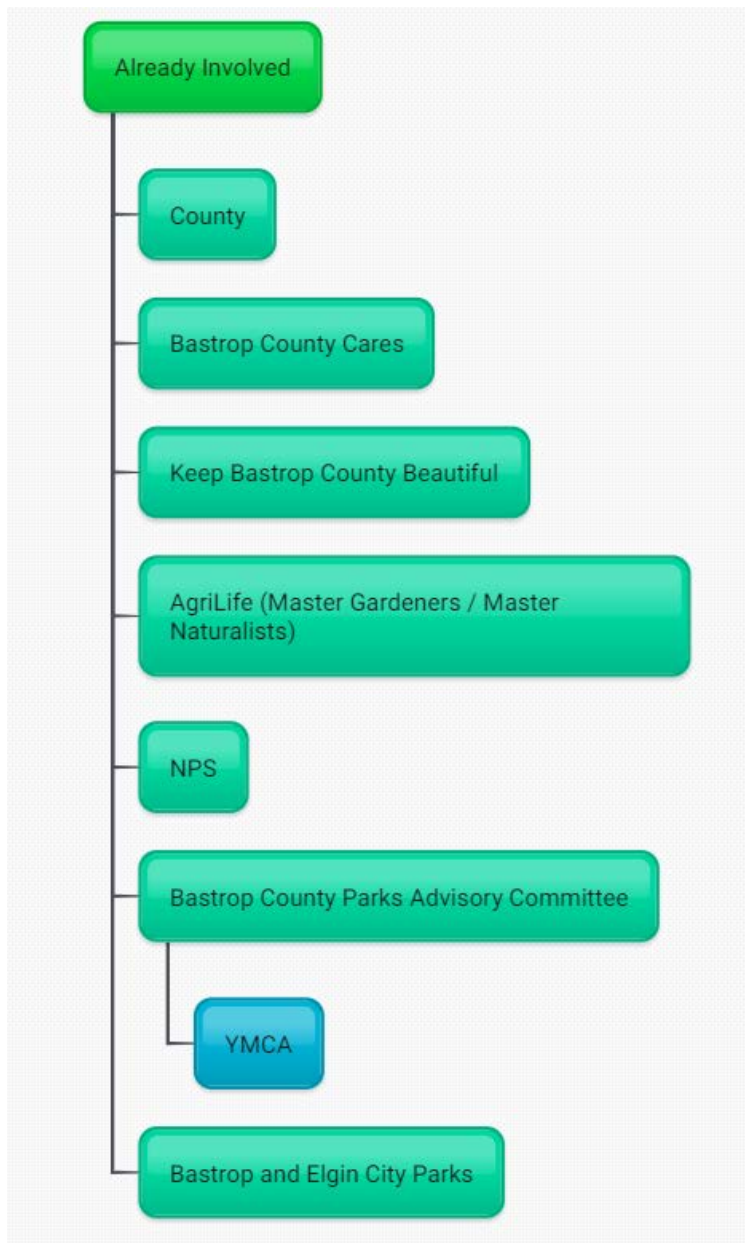
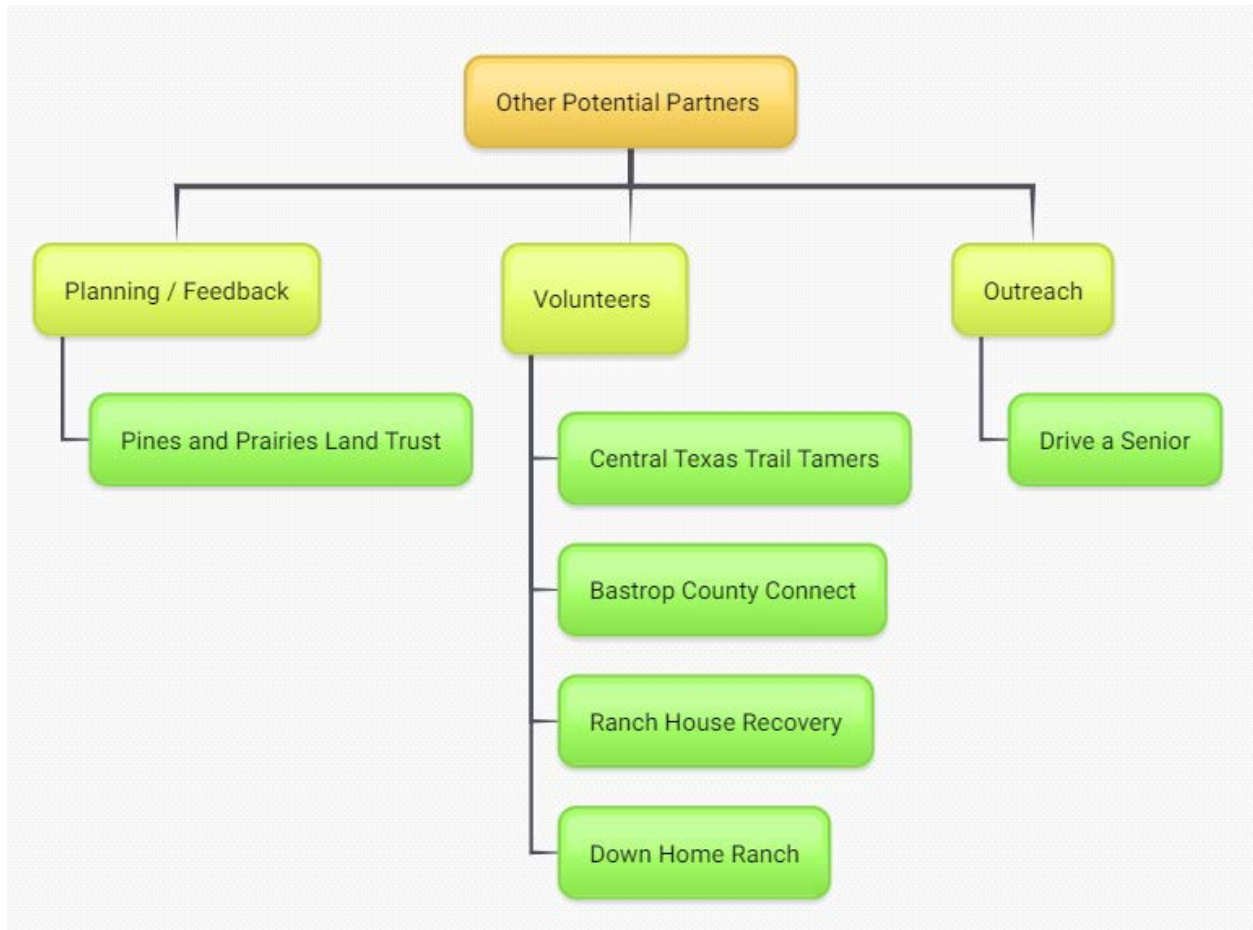


Fig. 2: Potential Partners Suggested by Public Meeting Attendees





**Appendix D - Park Inventory (Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan)**

Park Name	Address	GIS Acres	Category	Acres (locally provided figure)	Playground	Trails	Trail miles	Soccer Field (if "yes", how many?)	Basketball Court (if "yes, how many?)	Drinking Fountain	Restrooms	Picnic Areas and Shelters	Multi Use Field (if "yes", how many fields?)	Fitness Zone	Swimming pool (25m)	Swimming pool (50m)	Wading pool (if "yes", how many?)	Tennis courts (if "yes", how many courts?)	Volleyball courts (if "yes", how many courts?)	Golf course	Outdoor Theater	Football field (if "Yes" how many fields?)	Baseball fields (if "Yes", how many fields?)	Other?	Census County Division (CCD)	Consolidated acreage (GIS or locally verified if available)	
Colorado River Refuge	281 Riverside Dr, Bastrop, TX 78602	60.73	District		No	Yes	2.8	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Bastrop	60.73
Ferry Park	502 Water; Bastrop, TX 78602	2.64	Neighborhood	0.5	1	No	0	No	No	No	Yes (Port-a-potty)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	0.5
Fireman's Park/Ball Field	600 Hill St, Bastrop, TX, 78602	2.55	Neighborhood	2.5	No	No	0	No	No	No	Yes (Port-a-potty)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	1		Bastrop	2.5	
Fisherman's Park	1200 Willow St, Bastrop, TX, 78602	18.51	Community	20	1	Yes	0.25	No	2	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	1	No	No	No	1	1	No	No	No	No	Splash Pad	Bastrop	20	
Jewell Hodges Park	1200 Linden Street, Bastrop, TX 78602	0.50	Neighborhood	0.5	1	No	0	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	0.5	
Kerr Park	1308 Walnut St, Bastrop, TX 78602	1.39	Neighborhood	1.9	1	No	0	No	1	Yes	Yes (Port-a-potty)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	1.9	
Lovers Lane Park	Lovers Lane, Bastrop	25.20	Community	25	No	No	0	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	25	
Mayfest Hill Park/Rodeo Arena	25 American Legion Dr; Bastrop, TX 78602	16.35	Community	31	No	No	0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Rodeo Arena	Bastrop	31	
Bark Park	401 Grady Tuck Ln, Bastrop, TX 78602	1.20	Neighborhood	2	No	Yes		No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Dog Agility Equipment	Bastrop	2	
Minerva Delgado Park	709 Laurel St, Bastrop, TX 78602	3.05	Neighborhood	3	1	No	0	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	3	
June Hill Pape Riverwalk	400 Farm Street, Bastrop, TX 78602	2.92	Neighborhood	1.2	No	Yes	0.5	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	1.2	
Bastrop State Park	100 Park Road 1A, Bastrop, TX 78602	6603.15	Metropolitan		1	Yes	11.9	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	6603.15	
Bastrop County Nature Park	375 Riverside Dr, Bastrop, TX 78602	24.37	Community		No	Yes	1.13	No	No	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	24.37	
Rusty Reynolds Ballfield (Bastrop Steel Yard)		40.25	District		No	No	0	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	5		Bastrop	40.25	
Lake Bastrop North Shore Park	603 FM1441, Bastrop, TX 78602	182.45	District		No	Yes	4.6	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	182.45	

Park Name	Address	GIS Acres	Category	Acres (locally provided figure)	Playground	Trails	Trail miles	Soccer Field (if "yes", how many?)	Basketball Court (if "yes, how many?)	Drinking Fountain	Restrooms	Picnic Areas and Shelters	Multi Use Field (if "yes", how many fields?)	Fitness Zone	Swimming pool (25m)	Swimming pool (50m)	Wading pool (if "yes", how many?)	Tennis courts (if "yes", how many courts?)	Volleyball courts (if "yes", how many courts?)	Golf course	Outdoor Theater	Football field (if "Yes" how many fields?)	Baseball fields (if "Yes", how many fields?)	Other?	Census County Division (CCD)	Consolidated acreage (GIS or locally verified if available)
Lake Bastrop South Shore Park	375 S Shore Rd, Bastrop, TX 78602	176.44	District		1	Yes	4.6	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Bastrop	176.44
Elgin Little League	506 E 10th St, Elgin, TX 78621	8.97	Neighborhood		0	No	0	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Elgin	8.97
Elgin Memorial Park/Elgin	1127 N Main St, Elgin, TX, 78621	21.67	Community		1	Yes		No	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	Yes	No	No	No	1	2	No	No	No	1	Fitness Zone	Elgin	21.67
Morris Memorial Park	313 W 4th St, Elgin, TX 78621	10.90	Neighborhood		1	Yes		No	1	Yes	Yes	Yes (tables, no shelters)	No	No	1	No	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	Catch and release fishing pond	Elgin	10.90
Shenandoah Park & Greenbelt	1486 Avenue C, Elgin, TX, 78621	32.05	District		0	Yes	0.67	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Elgin	32.05
Thomas Memorial Park	411 Madison St, Elgin, TX, 78621	10.71	Neighborhood		1	Yes		2	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	1	No	No	No	1	Disc Golf - 9 hole course	Elgin	10.71
Veterans Memorial Park 1	N Main St, Elgin,	0.56	Pocket		0	No	0	No	No	Yes	Yes (part of new CARTS station, until then, portapotties)	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Gazebo	Elgin	0.56
McDade ISD Playground	167 Lockhardt St, McDade, 78650	0.50	Pocket	0.3	1	No	0	No	1	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No			Elgin	0.3
MLK Park/Little League Fields	Eagleston St, Smithville, TX, 78957	6.31	Neighborhood	20.7	1	No	0	No	3	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	Yes (before end of 2020)	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	3	Free wifi	Smithville	20.7
Rosanky Community Center Park	135 Main St, Rosanky, TX, 78953	0.46	Pocket		1	No	0	No	1	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No		Smithville	0.46
Bark Park 1		0.70	Pocket		No	No	0	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Dog agility equipment	Smithville	0.70
Buescher State Park	100 Park Rd 1-C, Smithville, TX 78957	1064.15	Metropolitan		1	Yes	5.73	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No		Smithville	1064.15
Keilburg Park	R69717, Smithville, TX 78957	11.64	Neighborhood		No	No	0	1	No	Yes	Yes	No	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Free wifi	Smithville	11.64
Railroad Park	113 NW 1st St, Smithville, TX 78957	2.23	Neighborhood		1	No	0	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Free wifi	Smithville	2.23
Skate Park	350 NW 1st St, Smithville, TX 78957	0.10	Pocket		No	No	0	No	No	No	No	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Free wifi connected to Rec Center	Smithville	0.10

Park Name	Address	GIS Acres	Category	Acres (locally provided figure)	Playground	Trails	Trail miles	Soccer Field (if "yes", how many?)	Basketball Court (if "yes", how many?)	Drinking Fountain	Restrooms	Picnic Areas and Shelters	Multi Use Field (if "yes", how many fields?)	Fitness Zone	Swimming pool (25m)	Swimming pool (50m)	Wading pool (if "yes", how many?)	Tennis courts (if "yes", how many courts?)	Volleyball courts (if "yes", how many courts?)	Golf course	Outdoor Theater	Football field (if "Yes" how many fields?)	Baseball fields (if "Yes", how many fields?)	Other?	Census County Division (CCD)	Consolidated acreage (GIS or locally verified if available)
Veterans Memorial Park	311 NW 2nd St, Smithville, TX 78957	0.39	Pocket		No	No	0	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Splash pad	Smithville	0.39
Vernon L. Richards Riverbend Park	107 TX-71, Smithville, TX 78957	21.10	Community		1	Yes	1	No	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	1	Disc Golf, Chuckwagon Court with two stages and permanent	Smithville	21.10
Smithville Community Gardens	107 SW 2nd St	0.50	Community		No	No	0	No	No	No	Yes when facility is open -- not outdoor restrooms	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Community center -- free food and wifi	Smithville	0.5
Smithville Recreation Center	106 Gazley St, Smithville, TX 78957	1.69	Neighborhood		No	No	0	No	No	Yes	Yes	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	No	Not a park; free wifi	Smithville	1.69
Bob Bryant Park	600 Charles Blvd, Bastrop, TX 78602	44.16	District	40	1	Yes	1	No	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	No	No	No	1	1	No	No	No	No		Cedar Creek-Red Rock	40
Cedar Creek Park	5540 FM 535, Cedar Creek, TX 78612	37.24	District		1	Yes	1.6	6	1	Yes	Yes	Yes	1	Yes	No	No	No	No	1	No	No	1	2	T-ball	Cedar Creek-Red Rock	37.24
Hunter's Crossing Park	301 Hunters Crossing Blvd, Bastrop, TX, 78602	3.54	Neighborhood	6.6	1	Yes	0.5	No	1	No	Yes	Yes	1	No	No	No	No	No	0	No	No	No	1		Cedar Creek-Red Rock	6.6
Stony Point Park	105 Stony Creek Dr, Del Valle, TX, 78617	5.50	Neighborhood		1	No	No	1	0	No	No	Yes	0	No	No	No	No	No	0	No	No	No	No		Cedar Creek-Red Rock	5.50
Colorado Vista		2.70	Neighborhood		No	No	No	No	0	No	No	No	0	No	No	No		No		No	No				Cedar Creek-Red Rock	2.70
McKinney Roughs	1884 TX-71 West, Cedar Creek, TX 78612	1140.02	Metropolitan		No	Yes	17.2	No	0	No	Yes	Yes	0	No	No	No		No		No	No				Cedar Creek-Red Rock	1140.02
Rockne Community Recreation Center Parks	125 Humble Ln, Bastrop, TX 78602	7.01	Neighborhood		No	No	0	No	0	No	No	No	0	No	No	No		No		No	No		3		Cedar Creek-Red Rock	7.01
<b>Totals</b>					<b>20</b>		<b>53</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>15</b>				<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>6</b>			<b>1</b>	<b>18</b>			<b>9621.18</b>

Table developed using data from the Trust for Public Land Healthy Parks Plan and input from the relevant park providers.

Project	Estimated Cost (without contingency)	1. Project provides an essential amenity in the park. (5 points) <i>essential amenities include bathrooms, parking and waste infrastructure</i>	2. The project provides a new facility in an underserved area (15 points)	3. The project will actively support or restore sensitive ecosystems and incorporates elements that cultivate support for natural resources, including endangered species. (10 points)	4. Project will promote active transportation by providing bike/ ped infrastructure linking parkland to nearby residential neighborhoods and/or other parks. (5 points)	5. Project will improve public safety within the parks. (5 points)	6. The project will be undertaken in partnership with another organization. (10 points)	7. Project will have a positive impact on the floodplain (10 points)	8. The project will promote broadband connectivity within the parks. (5 points)	9. The project will promote Tourism within Bastrop County (5 points)	10. The project will enhance access to the Colorado River (5 points)	11. The project actively protects and increases awareness of existing cultural resources (5 points)	12. Project has a low ongoing maintenance requirement (15 points)	13. Project will improve the efficiency and sustainability of park operations ( 5 points)	14. Project is identified as a Top 10 need in the Bastrop County Parks Survey (10 points)	15. Project improves facilities already located within an existing park. (5 points)	16. Project does not require additional utility hookups (with the exception of "essential amenities") (5 points)	Total
<b>Cedar Creek Park</b>																		
	\$10/ft for natural surface, \$8-12/sqft for concrete																	
Trail improvements and wayfinding signage (various)		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	10	5	5	32
Install splash pad	\$80,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	25
Installation of event pavillion	\$124,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	10	0	5	42
Installation of additional picnic tables	\$1300 each	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	10	5	5	32
Installation of telecommunications infrastructure to enable public wifi connectivity in the park	\$2,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	27
Installation of additional benches	\$1000 each	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	10	5	5	32
Dog Park	\$15,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20
Additional soccer field and goal posts	\$15,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	5	5	17
Upgrades to baseball fields	Varies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	5	5	17
Upgrades to Sports Courts	Varies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	5	5	17
Community Butterfly Garden (already completed so not in final project list)	\$5,000	0	0	10	0	0	10	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	35
Upgrades to entrance with Landscaping and Signage	Signage - \$1,500; Landscaping: varies	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	5	0	5	5	32
Upgrades to sports courts including installation of energy efficient/ drip irrigation system.	\$8,000 per field	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	5	0	27
Upgrades to play equipment	Varies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	5	5	17
Establish/ construct and maintain a community garden	\$10,000	0	15	10	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	5	50
Swimming pool	\$2,000,000	0	15	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	25
Install bike racks (3no)	\$1,000	0	15	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	5	40
Install ADA accessible sidewalks/ hike and bike trail along FM 535 from Creekview Drive and Bastrop County Precinct 3 office at Jenkins Road, and along SH 21 from Watts Ln to Bastrop Memorial Stadium/ McDonald Lane W/Martin Crossing Drive (needs concurrence w/ TxDOT)	Varies	0	15	0	5	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	30
<b>Bastrop County Nature Park</b>																		0
Installation of ADA accessible, flood proof bathrooms	\$180,000	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	10	0	0	5	10	0	0	50
Installation of entrance signage (to include park rules, contact details and trail map developed in partnership with PPLT)	\$8,000	0	0	0	5	5	10	0	0	5	5	0	7	5	0	5	5	52
Installation of gate with solar powered automatic gate	\$20,000	0	15	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	5	0	5	5	42
Installation of Information Kiosk w/ volunteering opportunities/community events as well as park rules, trail maps and contact details	\$16,630	0	15	0	0	5	0	0	0	5	5	5	7	5	0	0	5	52
Installation of pavilion and outdoor classroom (upgrades)	\$35,000	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	7	0	0	5	5	37
Water fountains (2)	\$10,000	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	7	0	10	0	0	27
	\$10/ft for natural surface, \$8-12/sqft for concrete																	
Trail upgrades and wayfinding signage within the park		0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	5	5	0	7	0	10	5	5	47
Construct pavillion	\$34,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	0	0	5	32
Install additional benches	\$1000 each	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	7	0	10	5	5	37
Install Solar Power Trash Cans	\$35,000	5		0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	0	5	0	0	5	25
Sidepath/ trail along Riverside Drive to connect into City of Bastrop's proposed Active Transportation Network	Varies	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	0	7	0	10	0	0	42
Upgrades to existing boat ramp and installation of contextual signage	Signage - \$2000; Ramp upgrades: varies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	5	5	7	0	0	5	5	32
<b>Stony Point Park</b>																		0
Installation of ADA accessible bathrooms	\$180,000	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	30
Install splash pad	\$80,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	25
Construct basketball court/ shade structure	Court: \$60,000, shade: \$30,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	10	0	5	45
Construct ADA accessible circular trail around park (including 2 footbridges)	Stabilized DG trail: \$7.50/sqft; Concrete: \$12/sqft	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	10	0	5	37
Installation of additional seating and picnic tables	Benches: \$1000 each	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	10	5	5	27
Construct pavillion	\$35,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	7	0	0	0	5	32
Installation of telecommunications infrastructure to enable public wifi connectivity in the park	\$2,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	0	27
Upgrades to soccer field including new posts/ netting and installation of benches	Posts: \$6,000; Bleachers: \$10,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	5	5	17
Construct 200 meter running track around soccer field with retaining wall	Track: \$40,000 for stabilized DG, \$18,000 for DG; Concrete edge: \$25,000; Retaining wall: Varies	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	10	0	5	37
Install tetherball	\$1,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20
Install outdoor exercise equipment	\$30,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	20
Install shade structure over existing playground	\$20,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	10	5	5	42
Installation of bike racks ( 5)	\$1,800	0	15		5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	5	32
Expand existing community garden	\$5,000	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	5	5	30
Install dog proof fencing around park perimeter	\$39,000 (1,950 ft at \$20/ft)	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	0	0	5	5	30
Install four square court	\$5000 (concrete pad)	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0	5	27
Construct bioswale with retrogrades within existing drainage channel	\$10,000	0	0	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	5	5	37
Tree sculpture/ art project	Varies	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5	7	0	0	0	5	37
Upgrades to existing picnic area	Varies	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	0	10	5	5	27
Construct new covered picnic area and adjacent visiting food truck spot	\$50,000	0	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	10	0	0	25



Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan Appendix E

Cedar Creek Park Projects	Indicative Cost without contingency	Score	Priority
Establish/ construct and maintain a community garden	\$10,000	50	High
Installation of event pavilion	\$124,000	42	High
Install bike racks (3)	\$1,000	40	High
Trail improvements and wayfinding signage (various)	12/sqft for concrete	32	High
Installation of additional picnic tables	\$1300 each	32	High
Installation of additional benches	\$1000 each	32	High
Upgrades to entrance with Landscaping and Signage	Signage - \$1,500; Landscaping: varies	32	High
<i>Install ADA accessible sidewalks/ hike and bike trail along FM 535 from Creekview Drive and Bastrop County Precinct 3 office at Jenkins Road, and along SH 21 from Watts Ln to Bastrop Memorial Stadium/ McDonald Lane W/Martin Crossing Drive (needs concurrence w/ TxDOT)</i>	<i>Varies</i>	30	Not ranked
Installation of telecommunications infrastructure to enable public wifi connectivity in the park	\$2,000	27	Medium
Upgrades to sports courts including installation of energy efficient/ drip irrigation system.	\$8,000 per field	27	Medium
Install splash pad	\$80,000	25	Medium
Swimming pool	\$2,000,000	25	Medium
Dog Park	\$15,000	20	Low
Additional soccer field and goal posts	\$15,000	17	Low
Upgrades to Sports Courts	Varies	17	Low
Upgrades to play equipment	Varies	17	Low
Upgrades to baseball fields	Varies	17	Low

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<b>Bastrop County Nature Park Projects</b>	<b>Indicative Cost without contingency</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Installation of entrance signage (to include park rules, contact details and trail map developed in partnership with PPLT)	\$8,000	52	High
Installation of Information Kiosk w/ volunteering opportunities/community events as well as park rules, trail maps and contact details	\$16,630	52	High
Installation of ADA accessible, flood proof bathrooms	\$180,000	50	High
Trail upgrades and wayfinding signage within the park	\$10/ft for natural surface, \$8-12/sqft for concrete	47	High
Installation of gate with solar powered automatic gate	\$20,000	42	Medium
Sidepath/ trail along Riverside Drive to connect into City of Bastrop's proposed Active Transportation Network	Varies	42	Not ranked
Installation of pavilion and outdoor classroom (upgrades)	\$35,000	37	Medium
Install additional benches	\$1000 each	37	Medium
Construct pavillion	\$34,000	32	Not ranked due to duplication
Upgrades to existing boat ramp and installation of contextual signage	Signage - \$2000; Ramp upgrades: varies	32	Low
Water fountains (2)	\$10,000	27	Low
Install Solar Power Trash Cans	\$35,000	25	Low

Bastrop County Parks and Open Space Master Plan Appendix E

<b>Stony Point Park Projects</b>	<b>Indicative Cost without contingency</b>	<b>Score</b>	<b>Priority</b>
Construct basketball court/ shade structure	Court: \$60,000, shade: \$30,000	45	High
Install shade structure over existing playground	\$20,000	42	High
Tree sculpture/ art project	Varies	37	High
Construct ADA accessible circular trail around park (including 2 footbridges)	Stabilized DG trail: \$7.50/sqft; Concrete: \$12/sqft	37	High
Construct 200 meter running track around soccer field with retaining wall	Track: \$40,000 for stabilized DG, \$18,000 for DG; Concrete edge: \$25,000; Retaining wall: Varies	37	High
Construct bioswale with retrogrades within existing drainage channel	\$10,000	37	High
Construct pavilion	\$35,000	32	Medium
Installation of bike racks (5)	\$1,800	32	Medium
Installation of ADA accessible bathrooms	\$180,000	30	Medium
Expand existing community garden	\$5,000	30	Medium
Install dog proof fencing around park perimeter	\$39,000 (1,950 ft at \$20/ft)	30	Medium
Installation of additional seating and picnic tables	Benches: \$1000 each	27	Low
Installation of telecommunications infrastructure to enable public wifi connectivity in the park	\$2,000	27	Low
Install four square court	\$5000 (concrete pad)	27	Low
Upgrades to existing picnic area	Varies	27	Low
Install splash pad	\$80,000	25	Low
Construct new covered picnic area and adjacent visiting food truck spot	\$50,000	25	Low
Install tetherball	\$1,000	20	Low
Install outdoor exercise equipment	\$30,000	20	Low
Upgrades to soccer field including new posts/ netting and installation of benches	Posts: \$6,000; Bleachers: \$10,000	17	Low